

STARS AND STRIPES®

**Upsetting start:
No. 4 UNC falls
to Santa Clara**

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Tar Heels' Sean May, left, and David Noel



**Deployed Marine
rushed home after
pregnant wife shot**

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**Turkey farms
feeling the
holiday rush**

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2004

A soft touch against terror

Troops in Horn of Africa protect ports,
improve schools and, yes, treat camels

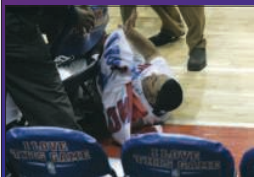
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JOSHUA MONTGOMERY/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Army Spc. Luis Soto of the Djibouti-based 96th Civil Affairs Battalion inoculates a camel during a recent veterinarian civil affairs project in Ethiopia. The first time troops showed up to treat donkeys, cows, sheep and camels, the turnout was minimal. The local rumor was that U.S. troops would poison their animals. When it was clear that the earliest patients were improving, citizens began to trust the Americans, and more animals were brought in for treatment. "At the last village we went to, it was more important for the men to get their animals treated than their children or wives," said veterinarian Maj. Julie Roche.

Mayhem in Detroit



**Four suspended
indefinitely after
brawl with fans**

Back page

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Robert Blake murder trial: Jury selection in the Robert Blake murder case was interrupted briefly Friday for an appearance by a former co-defendant of Blake's, who said he will refuse to testify at the trial.

Earle Caldwell, Blake's former handymen, took the witness stand only long enough to invoke his constitutional right against self-incrimination. His attorney told Superior Court Judge Darlene Schemp that Caldwell intends to answer no questions because of the possibility he could be charged again.

Jury selection continued after Caldwell's appearance; the judge said she hoped to have it concluded by Tuesday.

San Diego mayor dispute: The election count for mayor of the nation's seventh-largest city ended Friday with incumbent Dick Murphy leading by 2,205 votes, but a court challenge could keep alive the write-in candidacy of a maverick city councilman and surf-shop owner.

A Superior Court judge will be asked to consider whether to count ballots on which voters wrote Councilman Donna Frye's name but failed to fill in an adjoining bubble. The county registrar of voters has said California's election code prohibits tallying such ballots.

Seventeen days after the election, Murphy had 157,459 votes to 155,254 write-ins verified for Frye, according to the registrar.

Vibe Awards attack: A rapper surrendered Friday to face charges that he stabbed a man who had punched him in the parter D. Dre during the playing of a music awards show.

Young Buck, whose real name is David Darnell Brown, turned himself in at police headquarters and was arrested for investigation of one count of attempted murder and one count of assault with a deadly weapon.

Brown, wearing a knit cap and heavy chain necklace, was released on \$500,000 bail after being ordered to appear at a Dec. 20 arraignment, Lt. Frank Fabrega said.

Sex tourism crackdown: An 86-year-old man was found guilty Friday of attempting to travel to the Philippines to sexually molest girls, in violation of a new federal law aimed at fighting sex tourism.

A judge found John W. Seljan guilty of six counts, including attempting to travel for the purpose of having sex with minors and possession of child pornography.

Seljan faces a minimum term of 10 years in prison and a maximum of 270 years when he is sentenced in March.

The retired business owner is one of about a dozen men who have been arrested under the Protect Act, which was enacted last year.

Reporters' sources: Reporters would not be asked to reveal their sources, and their notes, photographs and other material would be protected from government eyes under a bill introduced Friday.

Sen. Christopher J. Dodd, D-Conn., proposed the legislation as critical to ensuring the nation's liberties.

Under Dodd's bill, the federal courts, legislative or executive branch could not compel a journalist to provide the source of information, regardless of whether that person has been promised confidentiality. That right would extend to a journalist's notebook, photographic negatives and other material.

The bill says a court could force disclosure of news in cases in which it is critical to a legal issue, the information cannot be obtained anywhere else and an overriding public interest exists in the disclosure.

War on terrorism

Human rights concerns: The International



Georgian crematorium trial: Karen Gruber presses a vial to her lips, containing what she says are her sister Shelaine Johnston's ashes, while waiting to catch a glimpse of

Ray Brent Marsh outside the Walker County Judiciary Annex in LaFayette, Ga., on Friday. Marsh pleaded guilty to dumping more than 330 corpses on his property and giving the relatives of the dead cement. He apologized for his actions Friday.

al Red Cross is "deeply concerned" with the killing of civilians and non-combatants in Iraq and the apparent failures by all sides to respect humanitarian law.

The International Committee of the Red Cross operations director, Pierri Kraehenbuehl, stressed that international law prohibits killing anyone who is not actively taking part in fighting—or has ceased to do so.

Kraehenbuehl also stressed that all parties must provide adequate medical care for the wounded and that hostage taking is forbidden in all circumstances.

Military

Boy Scout case dispute: U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Davis has joined in the effort to reverse the Pentagon's decision to end support for Boy Scout troops sponsored by military bases.

She has plenty of colleagues who feel the same way. By a 391-3 vote, the House on Saturday commended the Boy Scouts and condemned legal efforts to limit government ties to the group because of its requirement that members believe in God.

The 1st District Republican has asked Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to reconsider the concession to the American Civil Liberties Union, which Davis described in a statement as an "extreme group bent on pursuing a political agenda."

An ACLU lawsuit has challenged the relationship, saying the Defense Department shouldn't support an organization that discriminates based on religion because Scouts are required to believe in God.

World

EU defense plans: The European Union is expanding plans to set up several elite battle groups for rapid deployment to international trouble spots.

The original plan was to have nine such groups of 1,500 troops ready by 2007, but EU military officials said an enthusiastic response from nations wanting to contribute forces meant that at least 12 would now be set up.

Of that, four — led by France, Britain, Italy, and Spain — should be in place next year.

Russia nuclear missile system: Russia's new nuclear missile system is purely defensive and part of the country's program to upgrade its military, Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Fedotov said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday said the country is developing a new "state-of-the-art" nuclear missile system unlike any weapon held by other countries. He said it will be deployed "in the near future" but gave no details.

The Russian minister was asked why the system was trying to improve its nuclear capabilities.

"Of course it is necessary to improve missile system in order to avoid any accidents. This is standard procedure," Fedotov said.

Spain terror suspect: An Al-Jazeera reporter indicted in Spain on charges of belonging to an al-Qaida cell has been re-arrested after spending more than a year out on bail, court officials said Friday.

Tayssir Aloumi was arrested Thursday evening in the southern city of Granada, where he lives. A prosecutor said he posed a flight risk because the National Court this week rejected appeals from him and 20 other terror suspects, taking them one step closer to trial.

The proceedings are expected to start early next year, court officials said.

Turkey attacks: British diplomats placed a wire outside the British Consulate and victims laid carnations outside a London-based bank in Istanbul on Saturday to commemorate the first anniversary of two suicide attacks blamed on a Turkish al-Qaida cell.

The Nov. 20, 2003 suicide truck bombings targeting the consulate and the local headquarters of HSBC bank came just five days after similar attacks on two London embassies. Some 60 people — including British Consul-General Roger Short and his assistant, Lisa Hallworth — were killed in the bombings.

A Turkish court is hearing the case of 69 Turks accused of involvement in the attacks. Most are believed to have played minor roles.

Harun Ilhan, a top suspect in the case, recently testified that he and several others carried out the attack for al-Qaida.

U.N. human cloning talks: Both sides in the human cloning debate claimed victory after the United Nations shelved competing proposals to ban the procedure and agreed to meet again in February to try to heal deep divides on the issue.

The compromise Friday means that the U.N. General Assembly will abandon efforts to seek a worldwide treaty. Members could not decide between draft proposals either to ban all human cloning, or to ban reproductive cloning and allow some for stem cell and other research.

Business

Riggs Bank investigation: A Riggs Bank internal investigation has uncovered signs of money laundering by bank employees, including efforts in 2003 to help Argentine naval officers hide \$3.8 million in cash to prevent seizure by investors after the Argentine government defaulted on bond payments.

The investigation by a small team of former Secret Service agents hired by Riggs last year also discovered that efforts by former Clinton dictator Augusto Pinochet to hide millions of dollars at Riggs go back to 1985, nearly 10 years earlier than previously known.

The investigation so far has resulted in the firing of at least three Riggs employees, according to sources. Evidence obtained through the investigation was given to the FBI, the Secret Service, the Department of Justice, bank regulators, and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the sources said.

Stories and photo from wire services

U.S. likely to expand forces before Iraq vote

By ROBERT BURNS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Commanders in Iraq probably will expand their troops by several thousand as the January elections approach, the No. 2 commander of U.S. forces in the Middle East said Friday.

Lt. Gen. Lance L. Smith told a Pentagon news conference that no final decisions have been made and that the size of the troop increase will depend in part on whether the insurgency grows or weakens in the aftermath of the Fallujah offensive, which he called a major success.

Smith estimated that commanders would ask for about a brigade's worth of extra troops, which would be roughly 5,000. He said that probably would be achieved by keeping some units that were scheduled to serve 10 months in Iraq for an extra two months. He did not name the units.

There now are about 138,000 U.S. troops in Iraq, he said.

"We will make a further assessment as we get a little bit closer"

General estimates commanders will ask for 5,000 extra troops for security during January elections

to the elections scheduled for late January, "and as we understand what the impact of Fallujah is on the entire country," he said.

Smith said he believed that terrorist mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi was still in Iraq but that the U.S.-Iraqi offensive this past week had eliminated Fallujah as an al-Zarqawi base of operations.

Troops who have searched buildings in Fallujah over the past 10 days found 431 home-made bombs, which the military calls improved explosive devices, or IEDs. By comparison, 348 IEDs were found in all of Iraq during October, Smith said. IEDs are a favored weapon of the insurgents in attacks that kill or wound American troops and Iraqis almost daily.

The three-star general also said it appeared that al-Zarqawi and senior leaders of the al-Qaida terrorist network had attempted to communicate, probably by courier, from Pakistan or Afghanistan.

"We know for a fact that there are attempted communications between them," he said. "There is a relationship between al-Qaida senior leadership and al-Zarqawi. How to characterize that, we don't know yet."

That does not mean that al-Qaida is offering instruction or guidance to the insurgency in Iraq, he said. "I wouldn't characterize it as giving guidance, other than broad philosophy."

The coordinator of U.S. reconstruction work in Iraq, meanwhile, said security risks to workers in Sunni-dominated parts of the country have grown worse over the past six weeks.

"We're having greater difficulties," said William Taylor, director of the Iraqi Reconstruction Management Office in the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. "We're worried that in some areas — again, not all — in some areas it would now be difficult to have elec-

tions," and so it is important that reconstruction work be accelerated so voting can take place nationwide in late January, Taylor said.

He spoke from Baghdad in a video teleconference with reporters at the Pentagon.

He said reconstruction is continuing in southern and northeastern Iraq without serious problems.

An independent assessment of U.S. efforts in Iraq, by analyst Anthony Cordesman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, paints a somewhat gloomier picture.

Cordesman wrote in a study published Thursday, that despite some successes the aid work has fallen short.

"U.S. economic aid has lagged far behind the need for urgent action, has wasted vast resources on an impractical contracting effort and reflects U.S. views and priorities" rather than those of the Iraqis, he wrote.

Cordesman also urged that the U.S. government begin to transfer the management of economic aid to the Iraqi government, allowing the Iraqis to use the money for their own projects.

More broadly, Cordesman said he believes that the odds of the Bush administration achieving its political goal of establishing a stable democracy in Iraq are "at best even, and may well be worse."

Charles Hess, director of reconstruction contracting, appeared with Taylor and said that although "security is still a serious concern," U.S. officials believe they can overcome it.

Hess said insurgent sabotage is a problem, particularly in the oil industry that is the backbone of Iraq's economy.

Of the \$18.4 billion in Iraq reconstruction funds allocated by Congress last year, only \$1.7 billion has been spent, Hess said, an increase of about \$400 million from six weeks ago. He said \$73 construction projects have been started, up from 703 six weeks ago.

The goal is to have 1,000 started by year's end.

Baghdad explodes in violence; 4 bodies found in Mosul

By KATARINA KRATOVAC
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Baghdad exploded in violence Saturday, as insurgents attacked a U.S. patrol and a police station, assassinated four government employees and detonated several bombs.

One American soldier was killed and nine were wounded during clashes that also left three Iraqi troops and a police officer dead.

Some of the heaviest violence came in Azamiyah, a largely Sunni Arab district of Baghdad where a day earlier U.S. troops raided the capital's main Sunni mosque.

Five U.S. soldiers were wounded when a car bomb exploded Saturday in western Baghdad, the U.S. military said.

The blast also damaged two armored vehicles, the military said. The road where it happened was temporarily closed.

Associated Press Television News footage showed a black Humvee being towed away from the scene of the explosion along the airport road as a U.S. helicopter evacuated casualties.

U.S. forces and insurgents also battled in Azamiyah, in the northern part of the city, killing three Iraqis were killed and five wounded in Saturday's fighting, hospital officials said.

In northern Iraq, U.S. and Iraqi forces uncovered four decapitated bodies as they continued a campaign to crush militants who rose up last week. American and Iraqi forces detained 10 suspected guerrillas overnight in Mosul, the U.S. military said Saturday.

The U.S. soldier was killed



Iraqi children watch a U.S. Army soldier patrolling for insurgent activity in a village on the outskirts of Mosul, Iraq, on Saturday. American and Iraqi forces detained 30 suspected guerrillas in Mosul, the U.S. military said.

When his patrol was ambushed in Baghdad early Saturday, coming under a barrage of small arms fire, rocket-propelled grenades and roadside bombs, the military said.

The statement did not say where the attack occurred, but it came amid clashes in a string of Baghdad neighborhoods.

Insurgents using rocket-propelled grenades and small arms attacked a police station early Saturday in Azamiyah, in the northern part of the city, killing one policeman, according to police officials.

Clashes spread in Azamiyah be-

fore dawn, with a number of U.S. armored vehicles seen in flames.

In western Baghdad, heavy fighting broke out Saturday between gunmen and Iraqi National Guards and American troops in the Amiriya neighborhood, where three National Guardsmen were killed by roadside bombs, said policeman Akram al-Azzawi.

Nearby, a roadside bomb exploded as a U.S. patrol passed in the Khadra area, wounding two U.S. troops, according to policeman Ali Hussein of the Khadra police station.

In downtown Baghdad, a suicide bomber blew up his vehicle

just after noon at an intersection on Saadoun Street, a bustling commercial street. One Iraqi civilian was killed and another wounded in the blast, which sent black smoke rising above the city center and set several cars ablaze.

And in the western part of the city, gunmen in a car chased down a vehicle carrying employees of the Ministry of Public Works on their way to work Saturday, opened fire and killed four of them, a ministry spokesman said. Amal Abdul-Hameed — an adviser to the ministry in charge of urban planning — and three employees from her office were killed, said spokesman Jassim Mohammed Salim.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, Nov. 19, 2004, at least 2,127 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 946 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The British military has reported 73 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,079 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 837 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No new deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Sgt. Catalin D. Dima, 36, White Lake, N.Y.; killed last Saturday in a mortar attack in Baghdad; assigned to the Army Reserve, 411th Engineer Brigade, New Windsor, N.Y.

U.S. troops give Iraqi kids some space

BY RON JENSEN

Stars and Stripes

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, Iraq — Col. Bradley MacNeely hates empty space.

That's why he initiated a space-available program to ferry troops around Iraq if there is a seat aboard any aircraft of the Task Force 185th Aviation, which he commands.

And that's why these same birds carry school supplies donated through Operation Iraqi Children to units far and wide for distribution to local schools.

"If we have empty space on our aircraft, we're doing something wrong," said MacNeely.

He is especially proud of the task force's effort to get the school supplies to Iraqi children, but worried that the effort will end when his troops leave soon.

Supplies donated to the charity founded by actor Gary Sinise were getting only to Kuwait, where they languished. The 185th Task Force took on the job of distributing them throughout the country, getting them one step closer to their intended recipients.

The two groups came together through the family support group for the 185th Aviation Brigade of the Mississippi National Guard. The support group had collected a colossal amount of school supplies of its own to send, including 8,000 backpacks stuffed with items for young students.

It approached FedEx to help deliver the goods overseas. FedEx already was helping Operation Iraqi Children, but was frustrated because the gear was stuck in Kuwait. It wondered if the brigade could help.

"We said, 'Well, we'll give it a try,'" MacNeely said.

The brigade already had a secret weapon in this effort. Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jeffery Smith, who works in Kuwait for the brigade's rear detachment to send aircraft parts north, had established relationships with Air Force and Army logistics people. He began seeking space for the little school supplies for Operation Iraqi Children.



Sgt. Brandon Adriano, 193rd Aviation Company, guides a pallet of backpacks onto a CH-47 Chinook helicopter at LSA Anacanda for delivery to units at Forward Operating Base Speicher. Other there, the units will deliver the school supplies to children in surrounding villages.

In August, it began arriving at Logistics Support Area Anacanda in the form of large, towering pallets that included everything from notebooks to soccer balls.

Capt. Stacey Cetin coordinates delivery of the supplies to units throughout Iraq that want to help out a nearby school. If there is room aboard the brigade's CH-47 Chinooks, C-23 Sherpas or UH-60 Black Hawks, the supplies are loaded.

"It goes space available," she said. "Mis-



PHOTOS BY LEAH R. BURTON (Courtesy of the U.S. Army)

Sgt. 1st Class Marshall Harvest, 193rd Aviation Company, straps a pallet of backpacks to a forklift to transport it to the airfield at Logistics Support Area Anacanda. The pallets will then be delivered to Iraqi schoolchildren.

sion comes first. Beans and bullets come first."

Flying crews soon got into the act. They have begun figuring out how a brief detour can drop off goods somewhere without harming the mission.

Soon, Cetin's phone quickly began ringing. E-mails began arriving. Soldiers, airmen and Marines all wanted supplies sent to them.

Are you, they wondered, the woman with Operation Iraqi Children?

Well, no, she isn't. But she is. She'll find out what they need and how much, and when there is space and a mission in the area, she sees that the items get put aboard.

"They're very thankful," she said of the units that receive the school supplies. "They're also saying, 'Can you put us back on the list again?'"

MacNeely said about three deliveries are being made each day by his aircraft. In all, the brigade has received and delivered 800 pallets of supplies since it began this effort. And word of the service has spread near and far.

MacNeely said, "Everywhere I go, I run into people who say, 'Hey, you got any more school supplies?'"

MacNeely and Cetin said they don't think Operation Iraqi Children is fully aware of the effort the brigade makes. They are concerned that when their tour concludes at the end of December, the supplies might languish again in a Kuwaiti warehouse.

"We're hoping the unit that comes in to replace us picks it up," MacNeely said. "If we weren't doing this, that warehouse in Kuwait would be filling up."

The effort is more than a sideglance to the goal of the entire operation, the commander said. It is providing help to the people of Iraq, showing them that America is here to help, not to occupy.

In that way, he said, it is a direct part of the war effort.

"And it's not paid for by the government," he said of the supplies. "These are civilians donating to the cause that is helping us win over here."

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Germany, U.S. reach agreement to forgive Iraqi debt

BY GEIR MOULSON

The Associated Press

BERLIN — Germany's finance minister said Saturday that he and the U.S. Treasury secretary have reached an agreement under which Iraq's creditors would write off up to 80 percent of Iraq's debt, cutting a months-long U.S. push for debt forgiveness.

Finance Minister Hans Eichel said a meeting with Treasury Secretary John Snow "created the

basis on which the forgiveness of Iraqi debt can be settled mutually in the Paris Club" of creditor nations, which is owed about \$42 billion by Iraq.

"We agreed that there should be a write-off of debts in several stages amounting to 80 percent in total," Eichel told reporters on the sidelines of a meeting of ministers from the Group of 20 major economies.

"Within this framework, the necessary decisions can now be taken in the Paris Club," Eichel

said.

The German-U.S. agreement was being discussed Saturday by the Paris Club and "our expectation is that it will be accepted," said Eichel's spokesman, Joerg Mueller.

The United States has been pushing for a generous debt write-off for Iraq, trying to win support for wiping out as much as 95 percent of its debt.

However, other governments, including Germany, have questioned whether a country rich in

oil should benefit from huge debt reduction. France, which strongly opposed last year's U.S.-led war on Saddam Hussein, has previously proposed that the Paris Club write off half of the debt, postpone debt service for three years and revisit the issue when Iraq's economy is in better condition.

Iraq has said its overall foreign debt of \$122 billion is hindering postwar reconstruction.

The Paris Club of creditor countries includes Austria, Australia,

Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.

Iraq also owes \$80 billion to various Arab governments. Thirty percent of Iraq's debt would be written off immediately, another 30 percent in a second stage "tied to a program of the International Monetary Fund" and a further 20 percent "linked to the success of this program," he said.

Marine rushes to pregnant wife's bedside after she is shot

BY MARK SCOLFORO

The Associated Press

YORK, Pa. — A Marine serving in a war zone in Iraq rushed back home to be with his pregnant wife Friday after she was wounded in an apparent random shooting in a supermarket parking lot.

"You can only imagine how it would make me feel, being where I was at," Lance Cpl. Justin Cook, 23, said.

The Marine was pulled from his combat

unit in Fallujah on Monday, and told his wife Julia, 21, had been shot in the head. She is due to deliver the couple's son in February.

Justin Cook said his mind raced at the news — "a whole whirlwind of emotions, from anger [to] fear."

After three sleepless nights of travel, the Marine was at his wife's bedside Friday in the York Hospital intensive-care unit, where a nursing supervisor said she was in serious condition.

Authorities said Julia Cook, who had been living with her parents in Mannville, N.Y., while awaiting the birth of her son, was apparently in the wrong place at the wrong time. She was visiting high school friend Sunday night when someone opened fire with a shotgun, then drove away.

Noel Gomez, 19, arrested six hours later, told detectives he decided ahead of time on a location where he wanted to kill some-

one, according to his arrest affidavit. He is jailed without bond, charged with attempted homicide, aggravated assault and reckless endangerment.

The York public defender's office said Friday that Gomez's lawyer was unavailable for comment.

Gomez's relatives told the York Daily Record he had been exhibiting unusual behavior for the past five years.

"I feel sorry for him, I really do," Justin Cook said.

A pre-emptive peace strike

U.S., coalition troops beating terror to the punch in Africa

BY CHARLIE COON

Stars and Stripes

CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti — As people fight and die in Iraq, there's a quieter war being waged to the south.

The U.S. military launched a pre-emptive strike on the hearts and minds of those living in the Horn of Africa. The United States, military officials say, wants to win the peace on the eastern side of the continent before war breaks out or bad guys move in.

Part of the team in place there is patrolling the busy seaway. Others are drilling wells, fixing up schools and creating jobs. If the United States and its allies make enough friends, according to the strategy, then maybe the Horn of Africa will become a very unfriendly place for terrorists.

"We're prepared to fight," said Marine Col. Craig S. Huddleston, chief of staff for Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa. "But our preference is to do it by helping people, not hurting people."

The Horn of Africa — Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan — is due south of the terror-prone Middle East. The crux of the region is the 17-mile-wide Strait of Bab El Mandeb, which separates Yemen from Africa. It's narrow enough for terrorists in a fast boat to cross in an hour, and busy enough for them to hide among the shipping traffic.

"The terrorist," Huddleston said, "doesn't need a passport or permission to travel."

The Horn, a mostly impoverished area about two-thirds the size of the continental United States, would be a logical place for well-funded terrorists to find refuge.

"[Terrorism] is not new for our country," said Maj. Tsegaye Debe-

la of the Ethiopian Air Force, an adviser to CJTF-HOA. "Most of the people are appreciative of what the coalition forces, mostly U.S., are doing in Ethiopia."

Surrounded by hot spots

Camp Lemonier, where about 1,500 U.S. troops are based, is surrounded by hot spots.

Sudan, for example, grabbed world attention this year for its alleged state-sponsored rape, pillaging and genocide in its Darfur region.

Anarchy has ruled Somalia for the past 13 years, though a new government there brings hope for change.

To the north of Djibouti, order in Eritrea currently is being kept by U.N. peacekeepers.

Ethiopia has been relatively peaceful since its military rulers were overthrown in 1991.

Kenya has worked through violent and fraud-plagued elections in the 1990s to relative stability. Across the strait, Yemen suffered through civil wars in the 1970s and '80s, but since has calmed.

In addition to civil wars, anarchy and murderous rulers, the region has seen its share of terrorism, as well as U.S. losses:

■ November 2002: A hotel bombing in Mombasa, Kenya, kills more than a dozen people. An attempt to down an Israeli airliner with a shoulder-held, surface-to-air missile also takes place.

■ October 2000: A suicide boat attack on the guided-missile destroyer USS Cole kills 17 U.S. sailors in Yemen.

■ August 1998: The American Embassy bombings in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanza-



CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

Marine Col. Craig S. Huddleston, right, chief of staff for Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, presents certificates recently to African troops who completed a program to help their countries work together to fight terrorism. The presentation took place at Camp Lemonier, Djibouti.

nia, kill more than 200 people and injure thousands.

■ October 1993: Rebel forces kill 18 American soldiers and wound more than 80 in Mogadishu, Somalia.

Invitation arrives

Djibouti, a former French colony that gained independence in 1977, and whose leaders want it to become a bustling port and friendly place, invited the U.S. military onshore in May 2003.

"The threat here is real," said Marine Capt. Brian Dibbi, the Camp Lemonier force protection officer. "There are people out there who want to harm us and stop what we're doing in the region."

Huddleston said the U.S. military could simply hunt down terrorists, but that might create more enemies. So instead, they're trying to build hope, make allies, and create a place where people will shun terrorists instead of supporting them.



SEE AFRICA ON PAGE 6

Stars and Stripes

Building citizens' trust often starts with the animals

CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti — The first mission was a bust.

A new crew of well-meaning, but not-yet-trusted, U.S. troops had traveled from Camp Lemonier south into Ethiopia to do a veterinarian civil affairs project.

The crew was going to treat donkeys, sheep and cows, but word among the tribe was that the Americans were going to poison their animals.

Only a few people showed up. Their animals were treated for annoyances such as boils, their goats for ailments such as hyena bites. The animals got shots and got fed.

Over a few weeks, the calves got fatter and the chickens healthier. The word among the tribe changed.

"The next time we went there, the animals came pouring in," said Maj. Julie Roche, of Santa Fe, Ga., a veterinarian and Army reservist assigned to the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion.

She considered it a victory of sorts in the war on terror.

"For me, it's a victory on the animal side," Roche said. "Once you get a victory there, you've got a little victory with the people."

Animals are like currency in the African wild. They provide milk, food and are used as beasts of burden to carry belongings from one place to the next.

"At the last village we went to, it was more important for the men to get their animals treated than their children or

wives," Roche said. "We'd go to treat the wives and they'd tell us to take care of the animals first."

About 1,500 U.S. troops are stationed at Camp Lemonier as part of Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa.

Since establishing the camp in May 2003, the troops through October had conducted 18 veterinary projects and 19 medical civil affairs projects, as well as nearly 90 assorted school renovations, military-to-military training programs, plus well-diggings, hospital resupplies and so on.

The troops choose sites where the most impact would be made and consult local leaders before showing up. Sometimes it means flying to remote destinations and driving for hours up a dry riverbed.

It always requires translators who speak French, Arabic or one of the African languages.

The host nation often provides security. It hasn't yet been needed.

"We haven't fired a shot in anger or been shot at since we've been here," said Marine Col. Craig S. Huddleston, chief of staff for CJTF-HOA.

Roche, who was also called up to serve in the Balkans and Afghanistan, said she has been both rewarded and humbled by the experience.

"You realize there are a lot of people out there who don't have what you have and are perfectly happy," she said. "They just want the basics — food and water."

— Charlie Coon

Africa: Uniting nations with goal of peace

AFRICA, FROM PAGE 5

"We'll leave if the local people don't want us here," Huddleston said. "Or we'll leave if the region has become stable and secure and not a friendly place for terrorists to be, or if [U.S. troops] are needed elsewhere."

"I think we're going to be here long enough for the nations of the region to work together with all our other partners in the war on terrorism to eliminate the threat here."

"That's why I think it will take awhile."

Part of a bigger plan

The attempt to win the hearts and minds of East Africans is coming from inside and outside the region.

The fleet that patrols the Strait of Bab El Mandeb includes French, Dutch and British ships.

Troops training with the United States include Yemeni, Ethiopian, Djiboutian and Kenyan.

"It's a war of ideas and concepts, and [the strategy] is about building a coalition," said Marine Maj. Greg Beisbier, who runs a program that trains officers from neighboring nations on how to work as a team.

For example, Beisbier said, various nations are working together to build a secure computer network, similar to the U.S. Department of Defense's Secure Internet Protocol Routing system, known as SIPR-NET, so they can share information confidentially.

Time will tell

Camp Lemonier was Spartan when the



CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

Children inside a classroom at a school in Djibouti City, Djibouti. U.S. troops are hiring African contractors to renovate this building and others. Many of the schools the troops are renovating are so crowded that the children have to attend classes in shifts, with some going to school in the mornings and others in the afternoons and evenings.

Americans arrived but has grown considerably in the past 18 months.

Now it is a relatively comfortable down-range base, about 88 acres with a good chow hall, lighted outdoor basketball court, and a spacious patio bar that has music and a three-beer limit.

The four major services work in unison; staffing is about 40 percent Marines and 20 percent each of Army, Navy and Air Force. There are also 1,100 Djiboutians and contractors employed there.

"We put a huge amount of money into their economy and they are very much aware of that," Dibb said.

"We may have beaten terrorist organizations to the punch here. We may have a little jump on them."

Just south of Djibouti City, Tech. Sgt. Marshall Brown of Mount Vernon, Ky., is leading a team that is building a ford across a flood plain. The ford is on the main, dirt road that connects Djibouti City and the village of Holhol.

"If people can't travel this road, they can't get to town," Brown said.

The World Food Organization also uses the road to transport food from the Port of Djibouti south into Ethiopia.

When it flooded, rocks washed across

the road, making it useless after the water subsided. The ford will keep the road passable.

As a member of the Air Force's 823rd Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operations Repair Squadron, known as RED HORSE, based in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., Brown, 33, said he

spends more than half of each year traveling the world working on projects.

Brown said he understood why his government deployed him and others to the Horn of Africa. Whether or not the mission will be worth it, Brown took a wait-and-see stance.

"I guess time will tell," he said.

As jobs are created and people are helped, an intelligence network is emerging.

The tribesmen and other locals know bad guys when they see them and hopefully would share that information with coalition forces. The militaries of different nations are leveraging their assets.

Terrorists don't stand a chance, at least not in Djibouti City, according to Staff Haussen, director of port security and a member of the Djiboutian navy.

"There are people here who want their country and they want their peace," Haussen said.

Added Dibb: "We're not superheroes saving the day, but we are giving them a better future. We're giving them a reason to see beyond tomorrow."

E-mail Charlie Coon at: coonc@mail.strips.osd.mil



Brown

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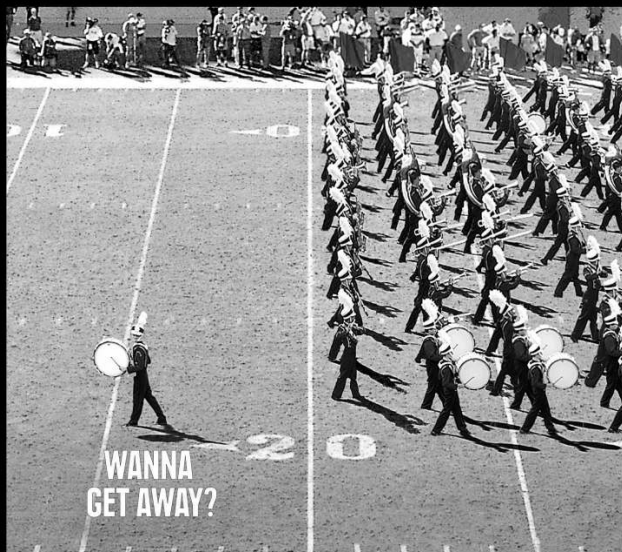
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Center to help amputees get fit for battlefield

BY SAM HANANEL

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A state-of-the-art rehabilitation center opening next year at Walter Reed Army Medical Center seeks to return more amputee soldiers to a place once thought impossible: the battlefield.

Besides treadmills and stationary bikes, the \$10 million Military Amputee Training Center will have weapons simulators, a climbing and rappelling wall, and military vehicle simulators to help soldiers adapt their prosthetics to driving tanks and trucks.

"Our guys and gals, they don't want to just walk household distances; they want to be able to return to running, they want to be able to return to duty," Lt. Col. Jeff Gambel, clinical chief of the amputee clinic, said Friday at a groundbreaking ceremony.

"And if they don't return to duty, they want to be able to rock climb and do all those other things."

The center brings together new and existing facilities and counseling services for amputees in a single 30,000-square-foot, three-story addition to the hospital.

When it opens in December 2005, the center will feature a running track, obstacle courses and a one-of-a-kind hydraulic platform to simulate different terrain, from mud to sand to gravel.

Computer labs will help amputees learn to control advanced prosthetics and a gait lab will help patients learn to walk and run again.

"If there's somebody who drove a tank, we can build a simulated vehicle and actually allow them to drive that," said Lt. Col. Paul Pasquina, medical director of Walter Reed's amputee program. "We look at the controls and figure out how they can operate it with either an upper extremity prosthesis or lower extremity prosthesis."

With advances in body armor that protects the torso and improved battlefield treatment, many soldiers who would have been killed in earlier wars now are surviving after losing limbs. Walter Reed has treated more than 900 battle casualties from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, including about 180 amputees.

"What we're finding in each subsequent conflict is there is an increased percentage of upper extremity amputations," Gambel said.

Chuck Scoville, amputee program manager at Walter Reed, told a congressional committee this summer that amputations accounted for 24 percent of all wounded in action in Iraq, twice the rate in World Wars I and II.

One of those amputees is a Marine Corp. Peter Bagarella, who



Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, left, talks Friday with Marine Lance Cpl. Manuel Rodriguez of San Antonio, Texas, who was injured in Iraq, during a groundbreaking ceremony for the Military Amputee Training Center at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington.

had his left leg amputated below the knee and has impaired vision. Walking carefully with his new prosthetic and a cane, he said the new center gives survivors hope they can lead the kind of lives they had before getting injured.

"It will give them motivation and show them that even if you have an amputated leg, you can do just as much as if you had a

leg," Bagarella said.

He does not plan to return to active duty, but at least 10 amputees treated at Walter Reed have returned or are planning to return to their units, hospital officials said.

"This center is saying we recognize your sacrifice, we recognize your importance, we're not abandoning you," Pasquina said.

Polish hostage released

The Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — A Polish woman who was abducted last month from her apartment in Baghdad was freed and back in the Polish capital on Saturday.

The former hostage, Teresa Borcz Khalifa, appeared before journalists in Warsaw but would not say how she was freed or give any details.

"It was a very joyous moment for me," the 54-year-old Khalifa said, looking tired but smiling. "I feel well, very well."

Prime Minister Marek Belka introduced Borcz Khalifa, saying only that she arrived back in Warsaw the night before and refusing to give further details, citing security concerns. "Borcz has been freed. She's here and healthy," he said. "Officials of different services took part in her release in cooperation with institutions from many countries."

Borcz Khalifa was shown in captivity in videos aired on Al-Jazeera on Oct. 28 and Oct. 30. Her captors, calling themselves, the Abu Bakr al-Siddiq Fundamentalists, demanded the withdrawal of Polish troops from Iraq.

Still, Borcz Khalifa — who had lived in Iraq since the 1970s and holds dual Polish-Iraqi citizenship — said she was treated well by her captors. "They treated me decently — I was well fed," she said.

She did not give details of her captors or say where she was held. However, she recalled that "the abduction was very quick — it was very well organized."

U.S. soldiers step up training in homeland terrorism

BY ESTES THOMPSON

The Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. — As their plane passed over New York City, some of the 100 paratroopers from Fort Bragg, N.C., peered out at the site of the World Trade Center attack three years ago that began a new era of American warfare.

Later, in the twilight along the Hudson River, the same members of the 82nd Airborne Division's quick-reaction force fanned out over the grounds of the U.S. Military Academy.

Some spent the night at traffic checkpoints. Others patrolled the campus. One sniper team huddled in the freezing weather under a camouflage drape. Their mission: to thwart a terrorist plot to kill West Point cadets with a bomb.

The scenario was fictitious, but the training very real for soldiers in the war on terrorism who are increasingly preparing for attacks at home.

About 80 percent of the soldiers in this unit have seen recent action in Iraq. But homeland security concerns mean a unit like this could be sent anywhere in the United States to help deal with a domestic emergency.

"An enemy within the states would be a whole new experience," said Spc. John Tharp, 20, of Michigan City, Ind., a veteran of a year's duty in Iraq.

The 82nd's core mission is rapid response — the ability to load a battalion of



A company of paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division from Fort Bragg, N.C., unload Nov. 9 from a C-130 at the U.S. Military Academy's 2nd Aviation Detachment at Stewart Airport in New Windsor, N.Y. The soldiers are members of a quick reaction force and were on their way to West Point for exercises designed to enhance homeland security.

paratroopers onto airplanes for any destination within 18 hours of getting orders.

But the soldiers' last combat jump that originated from Fort Bragg was in 1989 in Panama. In recent years, in Afghanistan and Iraq, 82nd soldiers have performed smaller jumps. Historically, all deploy-

ments have taken place outside of the continental United States (CONUS in military jargon).

"After 9/11, we have to be prepared to get these bad guys," said Capt. Adam Barlow, 27, of West Jefferson, community of Charley Company that went to New York.

"It's a new thing for me. It's pretty new for most of the guys."

The 82nd's quick-reaction force is one of an undisclosed number created after Sept. 11 to respond to missions designated by the military's Northern Command, which covers the 48 contiguous states.

The military won't disclose how many bases have quick-reaction forces.

"You're probably always going to need somebody to react quickly, no matter where it is, in a foreign country or the United States," said Sgt. Brian Cunningham, 23, an infantry team leader from Chicago.

University of North Carolina history professor Richard Kohn said detailed planning for defense at home and abroad is only prudent.

"The one thing history truly teaches is that we are likely to be surprised by the future," said Kohn, who specializes in peace, war and defense. "This the more flexibility and capability we possess, the more likely we are to meet the challenge successfully."

When the paratroopers get their orders to go to West Point, they donned Kevlar helmets and body armor and strapped bayonets to their chests. Some wore neck gaiters pulled over their ears for warmth in the pre-dawn chill.

"This sends a message," said Lt. Col. Tom Hiebert, the soldiers' battalion commander, in a brief speech to soldiers before leaving North Carolina. "If a group anywhere has in mind going anywhere in America to inflict harm, we are going to stop you."



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IN THE STATES

House, Senate debate spending package

BY ALAN FRAM

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans guided a \$388 billion domestic spending bill toward congressional passage on Saturday, hoping to climax lawmakers' lame-duck session by shipping President Bush a measure that clamps down on spending from education to clean energy projects.

In a rare Saturday session that leaders hoped would be their last business day of 2004, the House and Senate planned votes on the massive legislation — six weeks after the government's new bud-

get year started. In what is becoming an annual rite on Capitol Hill, lawmakers and their staffs had just a few hours before votes were to be cast to sort through the complex bill, which combined with explanatory documents measured 14 inches tall.

"We intend to make sure we're not going to have any wild spending spree like we've had in the past," said Rep. Pete Sessions, R-Texas, as House debate began.

Many Democrats were expected to support the measure because of the many popular programs it finances. Even so, they complained that Republicans

were forcing a bill through Congress that was too stingy to many programs and that contained buried provisions that might not have survived on their own.

"This process smells, and the odor wafts from sea to shining sea," said Rep. Alcee Hastings, D-Fla.

Final disputes were not swept away until shortly before midnight Friday, when lawmakers dropped an effort to block Bush's drive to shift some federal work to private companies. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, helped win an extra \$300 million for NASA, pushing the space agen-

cy's total over \$16 billion.

While the bill was loaded with thousands of projects for lawmakers' home districts, it must of all reflected the hardball realities of deficit politics. Congress' Republican majority balanced generous increases — like a 12 percent boost for the FBI to \$5.2 billion and more aid for the refugee catastrophe in Sudan — with cuts in some programs and token increases for others.

Among the victims were Bush priorities like education, which would grow by less than 2 percent to nearly \$57 billion. The National Endowment for Democra-

cy, which buttresses democratic institutions abroad, got \$60 million of the \$80 million he wanted, while his FutureGen program to promote clean-burning power plants got \$18 million — one-thirtieth of what the White House proposed.

To help pay for some of the bill's initiatives, a 0.83 percent cut was imposed on the agreed-upon level of every program.

Many Democrats were expected to grudgingly support the measure, realizing that continuing last year's spending levels would be even tighter and lack hometown projects.

Congressional negotiators reach intelligence overhaul deal

BY JESSE J. HOLLAND

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Breaking a month-long deadlock, key congressional negotiators reported agreement Saturday on legislation to overhaul the nation's intelligence agencies along lines recommended by the Sept. 11 commission.

The agreement, reached in the waning hours of a postelection session of Congress, would create a powerful position to

oversee the CIA and several other nonmilitary spy agencies. A new national counterterrorism center would coordinate the fight against foreign terrorists.

"Give me a cigar," said the chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan. He flashed a "v" for victory with his hand after signing off on the deal.

The agreement is subject to approval by both the full House and Senate before legislation can go to the White House. That could happen over the weekend.

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, one of the lawmakers involved in the talks, said President Bush had been in touch with negotiators by telephone from Chile, where he was attending a meeting of leaders from Asian and Pacific nations. Other congressional sources said the White House supported the compromise.

The commission, a bipartisan group that sharply criticized the performance of intelligence agencies, endorsed the emerging compromise.

The deal "contains not only major reforms of the intelligence community, but significant measures to improve aviation and border security, and emergency preparedness and response," the commission's leaders, Thomas Kean and Lee Hamilton, said in a statement.

A final agreement on legislation has been held up for weeks while House and Senate negotiators wrangled over how much authority the new intelligence director should have over budget matters.

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Judy Blume: Heroine of children's fiction

Author recognized by National Book Foundation

By JENNIFER FREY
The Washington Post

STANDING at the window in Judy Blume's Central Park West apartment is like looking out at Fudge territory. Remember Fudge, Peter Hatcher's incorrigible little brother? Remember when Fudge fell off the jungle gym in Central Park while Sheila (otherwise known as "Sheila the Great") was supposed to be watching him? Remember what it felt like the moment you realized that characters in storybooks could be your friends? "Oh, it is Fudge's neighborhood," Blume says, taking in the view.

"And you know what's really funny? The 'Fudge' books were really set in my best friend from seventh grade — that's many, we're still best friends — in her building. She has always lived around the corner from here."

We are here because we finally have the excuse. Wednesday night in New York, at a ceremony announcing the winners of the National Book Awards, Blume received the National Book Foundation's Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters. This is a big-deal award, one previously given to the likes of Eudora Welty and Toni Morrison, John Updike and Arthur Miller. It is not the literary company Blume usually keeps.

Blume writes mainly for children, from early elementary school up through adolescence. She writes for the fat girl who gets tormented by the popular kids, and for the quiet ones who painfully watch it go on.

She writes for the siblings who feel ignored once they get a younger brother or sister. She writes for kids going through divorce and kids who move and find themselves nervously starting at a new school. She writes for girls who are apprehensive about getting their periods and boys who are embarrassed by the physical side effects that come with their first sexual impulses.

For legions of young people — many of whom are now adults, given that she has been writing for more than 30 years — Blume is, at heart, a childhood friend. She is the author who knew our world better than any other adult did. She is the one who told us secrets, who took the mystery out of the embarrassing stuff. She made us feel normal. She made us feel understood.

And so now we have seized on this award as an opportunity to

meet the writer. To know her, as she has always seemed to have known us.

How often, after all, do you get the chance to rediscover an old friend?

Blume is curled up on the sofa in her living room, ready to visit.

It is tempting to say she looks waifish, so slight and delicate are her features, but there is an energy to her that makes that word seem inappropriate. Girlish, perhaps, is better. She's 66, yes, but Blume was never an actual age for us — other than, of course, the age of the characters she created. She must always be youthful.

"My son says that all I need to do now is sit back and collect awards," she says,

and then laughs out loud at the thought that this somehow means she's ready to be put out to pasture. "That's not what I want my future to be."

Blume has moves to make now — earlier this year, she, along with her director son Lawrence and producer Jane Starz, signed a multi-picture deal with Walt Disney Studios to adapt her novels, starting with

"Deenie." And Glamour magazine just made her a Woman of the Year. And there's the National Book Award. Apparently, this is her time to be big.

"It's like a book tour, but you don't have to travel," she says.

Blume's work may be better known for popular appeal than critical acclaim; she's had mixed reviews, but her 23 books have sold more than 75 million copies worldwide. We snatched up the "Fudge" series and so desperately wanted more that we begged her to write another installment, "Double Fudge," just two years ago.

At puberty, it was copies of "Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret" (about a girl worried about both her religious identification and her changing body) or "Then Again, Maybe I Won't" (about a boy coping with his budding sexuality) or, in many cases, both. "Forever" was the book passed around among friends in their teens, each reading it surreptitiously under the bedcovers, sure that its subject matter — a girl's first experience with love and sex — was something parents would label contraband.

Others got the point: Blume made sense of things in simple, familiar terms. The world she wrote about felt real.

"People say, 'Do you feel responsible?'" Blume says, sighing, when asked about adult protests over her subject matter.

"Do I feel responsible? The re-

sponsibility, as I see it, is first to be honest. To be honest with your characters. And that, for me, includes the language, which gets me in trouble."

So let's just cut to the chase here, ask what we've always been dying to know: How did she know all that stuff about us? It's a complicated answer. Part of it, Blume says, is that she was raising her own kids during much of the time she was writing. She was, as she puts it, "very tuned into the school bus culture." Part of it, too, is her ability, when she writes, to retreat into the world she's writing about, to almost get lost in it. And part of it is simple: "We've all felt those emotions, haven't we?" she says.

"We've all been through it."




Author Judy Blume receives the 2004 National Book Foundation Medal for distinguished contribution to American letters — or maybe just for taking the mystery out of the embarrassing and confusing parts of life.

AP

“My son says that all I need to do now is sit back and collect awards. That’s not what I want my future to be.”

Judy Blume



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Officials to flood Grand Canyon

By BETH DEFALCO
The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Environmentalists have complained for years that the Colorado River below a manmade dam was washing away natural sediment in the Grand Canyon, wiping away beaches and native fish and plants.

On Sunday, a simulated flood will allow scientists to see whether the Glen Canyon Dam — the root cause of many of the problems — can also help fix them.

Officials plan to release a controlled flood, opening four giant steel tubes at the base of the dam and sending a torrent down the Colorado and into the canyon. An estimated 800,000 metric tons of sediment will be stirred up during its 90-hour run.

"We're trying to mimic the role of all that sediment that used to be there before the dam," said Dennis Fenn, director of the Southwest Biological Science Center, under the U.S. Interior Department. "Water that goes through the dam is clear, and sediment-free. The sediment is trapped behind the dam and doesn't come down like it used to."

Fenn said only about 7 percent of the historical sediment before



Water pours out of four main tubes at the bottom of Glen Canyon Dam in Page, Ariz., in 1996. A new controlled flood at the Grand Canyon is set to begin Sunday in an effort to return natural sediment along the Colorado River to the canyon.

the dam was built is still there.

Glen Canyon Dam, built 40 years ago upstream from the Grand Canyon, forever altered the landscape. Four of the canyon's eight native fish species have disappeared and prospects for the fifth, the endangered humpback chub, are grim.

Before Glen Canyon Dam's construction, natural flooding built

up backwaters, eddies and sandbars with silt distributed from the Colorado's tributaries — landscape features within the river considered essential to native plant and fish species, including the humpback chub and the razorback sucker.

Officials have unleashed high flood waters before to see how the environment responds.

The Interior Department began studying the effects of the dam on the Grand Canyon in the early 1980s — and soon found beaches were washing away. In 1996, officials flooded the canyon with an 18-day water release, although only about five of those days produced high floods.

"We learned a lot from that study," Fenn said.

He said a major problem was that scientists overestimated the sediment in the bed of tributary rivers that flow into the Colorado River below the dam. The initial high flood waters redeposited sediment in the Grand Canyon. But steady, lower flood waters began undoing the good, eroding the moved sediment.

Tapes show LAX police ignoring calls

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — City officials are calling for an investigation of Los Angeles International Airport police after hidden-camera captures several officers abandoning their posts and ignoring emergency radio calls.

The camera footage broadcast Thursday by KCBS-TV appeared to show officers spending hours of their shifts away from the airport or staying at the airport but not working.

It also showed police chatting at a restaurant while ignoring radio calls about abandoned suitcases, and using a patrol car to pick up a child at school.

KCBS reporters followed officers for two months with hidden cameras.

The airport police force employs 300 officers.

Airport Police Chief Bernard J. Wilson said a department probe already is under way and two employees have been placed on administrative leave with pay.

Holiday shipping bears caution

Scripts Howard News Service

Even shippers need reminding to watch what goes in and out of the peak holiday season.

The Federal Aviation Administration put out the word this week, with cautions for companies that routinely ship hazardous wastes and the passengers who unwittingly pack them.

If you're a passenger, forget trying to take sparklers or fireworks home for the holidays. Ditto for bullets, large cans of hair spray or starch.

The Transportation Security Administration allows 16-ounce cans.

Anything larger is going to be taken from you, checked luggage, or worse, you're going to get a call to report to security, said John Barrett, manager of the FAA's Security and Hazardous Materials Field Office in Atlanta.

With stepped-up X-ray surveillance of all checked luggage, the chances for delays or confiscations are higher this year. For passengers, the message is "contact your carrier to get packing instructions," Chris White, FAA spokesman, said.

"Bullets and ammo are actually legal," he said. "But the airlines want to know you have them."

Perfume, a flammable liquid, is legal in small bottles.

For the 40 shippers who attended the meeting at a Tennessee Air National Guard base, the word is "know the regulations," said Marvin Sudduth, senior safety specialist at Memphis, Tenn.-based FedEx Corp.



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Turkey farmers rush to meet holiday need

By LISA RATHKE
The Associated Press

WESTFORD, Vt. — Judy Adams' daughter called from college in Iowa to say she'd make it home by Tuesday to help sell turkeys.

The family will spruce up a small shop next to the house and offer maple bread to customers who return year after year to pick up their Thanksgiving birds. They'll also ship out many of the thousands of turkeys they've raised over the last six months.

It's the height of the Thanksgiving rush for Vermont's roughly 14 turkey producers, and after 20 years of raising turkeys, Judy Adams isn't tired of it.

She likes to see them grow from the day-old poults that first arrive in May. She likes the curious chirping sounds they make as they roam around the barn across the street from her home. And she likes this time of year when she gets calls from customers and takes pride in every turkey she sells.

"We basically hand raise them. It's a family thing," she said.

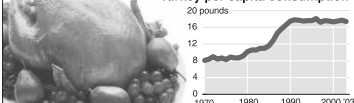
"We have an inspected processing facility. We see each bird as it goes through the plant and then to package the bird and hand it over to the customer," she said.

Thanksgiving's a day to stuff yourself on gobbly goods, a day to relax and watch the tube, and a day to feast on lots of food.

Talking turkey

As turkey consumption rises, the number of turkeys produced also continues to increase. Nearly two-thirds of U.S.-raised turkeys come from six states in 2004.

Turkey per capita consumption



Sources: Department of Agriculture; Census Bureau

Top producing states

2004 estimate, in millions

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Minnesota | 46.5 |
| North Carolina | 39.0 |
| Arkansas | 28.0 |
| Missouri | 21.5 |
| Virginia | 19.0 |
| California | 16.0 |

Protein consumption rank

2003 per capita consumption, in pounds

| | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| 1. Chicken | 81.5 lbs. |
| 2. Beef | 65.0 |
| 3. Pork | 51.9 |
| 4. Turkey | 17.4 |
| 5. Lamb and mutton | 1.1 |

Other table staples

| | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 2004 production | 658 million pounds of cranberries |
| 2.2 billion bushels of wheat for bread, rolls and pie making | |
| 2003 production | 1.6 billion pounds of sweet potatoes |
| 805 million pounds of pumpkins | |

Turkey farming has grown 100 percent in Vermont in the last 10 years, said Dave Lane, deputy secretary of the Agency of Agriculture. Vermont now produces about 50,000 turkeys a year with Stonewood Farm in Orwell and Misty Knoll Turkey Farm in New Haven, raising the most.

The growth in the number of Vermont-raised turkeys may be due to consumers' desire to buy food locally, Lane said.

"There are some consumer

studies that are now showing the consumers are really interested in local, even above organic," he said.

The days before Thanksgiving are a social time of year for the Adams family, as loyal customers drop by to pick up their holiday birds.

"We have a lot of people who've decided to make Adams Turkey Farm their tradition. We see people that we see for 20 years," Adams said.

She and her husband, Dave, and four children raise a couple of thousand turkeys a year on a family farm with horses, goats, geese, dogs, cats and dozens of rabbits. They also raise chickens, sell compost, maple syrup and cut-your-own Christmas trees.

They have no full-time employees, just relatives and friends who help out.

A few towns south at Misty Knoll Farm, Rob Litch is working 17-hour days to get about 15,000 turkeys out for Thanksgiving. He has the help of about seven Jamaican seasonal workers, and eight other employees.

The key difference between his free range turkeys and mass produced turkeys is taste, he said.

The turkeys, many of them roaming around in large pens outside, are fed an all grain diet, with no animal byproducts or antibiot-

ics. The farm works with a turkey nutritionist to get the flavor right, he said.

"In my opinion, there's a taste difference and a significant one," he said. "Typically when we have a customer, they continue to come back. So the key is getting people to try them and appreciate the difference and once they do that, it's a little easier for them to justify the price differential."

Misty Knoll sells its turkeys for about \$2.09 a pound at the farm. They retail for \$2.19 and more at markets and health food stores. Adams Turkey Farm sells its birds for \$2.59 a pound.

For Jim Martin of St. Albans the taste is worth the price.

"You haven't disappointed me yet," he tells Judy Adams as he stopped to order a 17-pound holiday bird.

"It costs a little more but it's worth it," he said. "There's nothing like it."

Sneak peek at Macy's Parade

A model of the Spongebob Squarepants balloon, center, hangs in the Macy's Parade Studio in Hoboken, N.J., on Tuesday, as Jennifer Palmer, left, leads a tour of the design studio for school children. The parade kicks off Thanksgiving Day in New York.



AP

Santa Train brings Christmas to rural kids

Kingsport Times-News

KINGSPORT, Tenn. — Susan Kidd, 64 and the oldest of 11 siblings, remembers waking well before dawn on the Saturdays before Thanksgiving when she was growing up in Scott County, Va., near eastern Tennessee.

In fact, many of those mornings she left the house before daylight and headed for the railroad tracks — looking for Christmas.

Her family lived about a mile and a half from the Clinchfield Railroad tracks at Duncannon, and Kidd was a toddler the first time she saw the Santa Train pass through town.

Kidd, who lives in Atlanta now, was among dozens of volunteers Wednesday who helped sort, mix, box and load more than 15 tons of foodstuffs, toys and other goodies destined to be thrown from the Santa Train this weekend.

Kidd said she has witnessed all but four of the train's 61 runnings — Saturday will be its 62nd.

"We didn't have TV or newspaper advertisements

to tell us a schedule," Kidd said. "So we didn't know a specific time it was supposed to pass our area. We didn't want to take any chances, so we'd get there by daylight."

Sometimes a freight train or two would clip by while they were waiting. But Kidd said she and the other children knew when the right train came into view because it moved slower and its whistle sounded — to them at least — a particular way. A special way.

The Santa Train began in the early 1940s by the Kingsport Merchants Association to thank those who shopped in the city and lived along the 110-mile route.

At first, Santa's treats to children — tossed from the back of a regular-schedule passenger train — consisted primarily of hard candy or a pencil or writing tablet and were paid for by the chamber.

Toys soon joined the mix, and in those early years there were children whose only Christmas gift came from the Santa Train.

Now gifts and cash donations pour in year-round from across the country.

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Hero takes the hit

CA SAN FRANCISCO — A man died in San Francisco after he pushed a companion out of the way of a car being driven by a man allegedly drunk, then was struck by the car himself, police said.

Manmeet Singh, 21, died Sunday at San Francisco General Hospital, about 15 hours after he was hit. Singh was crossing the intersection with a woman whom he pushed out of the way before he was hit, police spokeswoman Maria Oropeza said. Police arrested Gordon Wong, 21, and booked him on suspicion of vehicular manslaughter, driving under the influence and failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk.

Whale passes on

MA WOODS HOLE — A beluga whale that captured the fancy of boaters and divers with his playful antics last summer apparently died from natural causes, marine mammal researchers said Tuesday.

The whale nicknamed POCO was taken to a laboratory for examination after washing ashore on a mud flat Monday in South Portland, Maine.

A preliminary examination showed the whale's lymph nodes were larger than normal and that tissues surrounding his esophagus were swollen, suggesting he died from an infection, said Dr. Larry Dunn of the Mystic Aquarium. The 9- to 9-foot light gray beluga whale made headlines because of his playful nature, rubbing against boats, divers and swimmers.

Money laundering, sort of

LA GREENSBURG — How do you dry out \$67,380 in stolen cash recovered from a beaver dam? Very carefully, as St. Helena Parish deputies found out.

First, the soggy bills were spread out in the vault at the Bank of Greensburg. But they started to smell — so badly that Maj. Michael Martin can't help wrinkling his nose just talking about it.

Then, the dough was dumped into one of the large dryers at the parish jail. But the muddy moolah simply clumped together. That, though, was easy enough to solve. Adding an old pair of tennis shoes broke up the wet wads of bills.

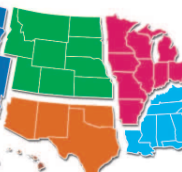
Finding the proper dryer setting, though, took a time or two to get right. "Regular dry" turned some bills in the first batch "a little too crispy," Martin said. The next three and a half loads on "permanent press" came out warm and fluffy, but still slightly muddy.

Deputies found two bags of cash stuck in a beaver dam. One had been torn open and some of the cash had apparently been woven into the dam with sticks and other materials by beavers.

Porn dismissal upheld

IA DES MOINES — The Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals was justified in firing an employee for allegedly e-mailing pornographic pictures to colleagues, the Iowa Public Employment Relations Board ruled.

Robert Woods, who was fired in 2002, argued at his appeal hearing that his e-mails had "sexual humor." The board noted that in one five-month period Wood had sent or received at least 25 inappro-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

private e-mails.

South Beach for kids

FL KISSIMMEE — Lunch these days for about 2,700 grade schoolers is low-fat and low-carb — a la South Beach Diet. The menu switch is part of a children's health study by Miami Beach cardiologist Arthur Agatston, author of the best-selling South Beach Diet books. If the diet helps students maintain a healthy weight, the study may be expanded to other school districts.

Students have been measured, weighed and fitted with pedometers to count each step they take and encourage them to keep active. The program at Kissimmee Charter Elementary, Mill Creek Elementary, Partin Settlement Elementary and P.M. Wells Charter Elementary ends in May.

'Who's Who' in prison

VT ST. ALBANS — A teacher who was sentenced in August to up to seven years in prison for having an affair with a female student has been listed as one of America's best teachers.

Richard Bugbee Jr. of St. Albans is one of the 134,000 teachers featured in the current edition of "Who's Who Among America's Teachers." The annual list is compiled and issued by Educational Communications Inc. in Austin,

Texas.

The company touts its listing as "among our nation's best and most respected teachers."

Teachers are nominated by current or former students listed in "Who's Who Among American High School Students," "Who's Who Among American High School Students-Sports Edition," or "The National Dean's List." Teachers also make the list "because they are held in the highest regard by their communities and peers," according to the company's Web site.

The project coordinator, who only identified herself as Ellen, said she could not release the name of the student who nominated Bugbee or the date of the nomination because of privacy issues.

Race track fuels debate

CT PLAINFIELD — Plans for an indoor, 140,000-seat auto racing track are drawing opposition from three citizens' groups.

One group questions job-creation estimates for the \$343 million project, saying they're inaccurate because the developer hasn't received commitments from major racing organizations. A University of Connecticut study predicts the project, which includes a hotel and retail stores, would create up to 8,750 jobs by 2007.

Hospitality cabbies?

MI ROMULUS — Southeastern Michigan tourism officials have started hospitality training classes for cab drivers, waiters, bartenders and others. More than 100 cab drivers at Detroit Metropolitan Airport are the first to take the four-hour class.

Detroit hosts baseball's All-Star game in 2005, the 2006 Super Bowl and the 2009 college basketball Final Four.

Cops hold meeting

CA LOS ANGELES — More than 15,000 law enforcement officers are in town this week attending the 111th annual conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. The officers will attend panels on forensics, terrorism prevention and funding issues during the five-day event. They will also test products displayed by more than 650 vendors.

Poison prank

GA ATLANTA — The father of one of two 13-year-old girls accused of serving poisoned cake to about a dozen students said Thursday he and his daughter were sorry it happened.

"It was a horrible prank that went too far and a lot of people have suffered," the father said. The man asked that he not be identified by name to protect his daughter.

The girls were held on assault charges Wednesday, a day after handing out the cornbread cake at East Cobb Middle School.

Lab tests showed the icing contained an expired prescription drug, bleach, clay and hot-pepper sauce, police said. Eleven students who ate it were treated at a hospital and released.

The father said the two girls had been bored Tuesday and began playing around in the kitchen.

"It was not an intentional or malicious intent," he said. "They thought it would be funny. They know it's not funny now."



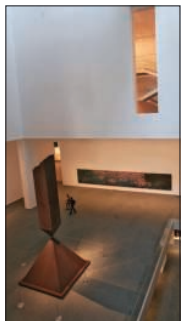
Up close, personal Girl Scouts from Troop 3354 of Kaufman, Texas, get a close up look at a portrait of first lady Louisa Catherine Adams, wife of President John Quincy Adams at The Women's Museum in Dallas.



Letting off steam Mount St. Helens experiences a minor steam eruption in Washington State as viewed from the Johnson Ridge Observatory in Mount St. Helens, Wash. At right is a tree toppled by the volcano's massive 1980 eruption.



Long winter? President of the Punsuattaway Groundhog Club, William Cooper, shows off Punsuattaway Phil to second-graders from Mountain View Elementary in Harrisburg, Pa. The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission used the groundhog as a way to discuss how to prepare for winter.



Grand re-opening

An atrium rises at the center of the renovated Museum of Modern Art in New York with the sculpture "Broken Obelisk" by Barnett Newman and Monet's "Waterlilies" on the second floor. MoMA was to re-open to the public Saturday.



Tender loving care Garland County Humane Society members Mary Ann Taft, left, and Ray Ann Reynolds feed some oats to one of several dozen malnourished horses reportedly under the care of Hot Springs trainer Glenn Hild at a training center in Bonnerdale, Ark.



Ready to roar again Morgan Kibby, a conservation technician, steam cleans the lion named "Patience" on the steps of the New York Public Library along Fifth Avenue. The 93-year-old marble sculptures are fully restored.



Long stretch Adults participate in a dance class to get or stay fit, at Dance Studio No. 1 in Los Angeles.

Illegal smokes seized

NY NEW YORK — A cargo plane carrying 150,000 cartons of illegal cigarettes was detained at John F. Kennedy International Airport, authorities said.

Agents from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms seized the cigarettes as part of a nationwide effort to halt sales of contraband tobacco. Buyers of illegal cigarettes usually hope to avoid city, state and federal tobacco taxes, the ATF said.

The cargo airline, which was not identified, was cooperating with the government and no charges were expected to be filed.

Bizarre Wal-Mart customer

TN KNOXVILLE — A man accused of stroking strangers' buttocks at a Wal-Mart racked up three felony convictions for the bizarre incident.

Cesar David Cruz pleaded guilty before Knox County Criminal Court Judge Mary Beth Leibowitz to three counts of sexual battery.

Neither Cruz nor his attorney, Mike Whalen, offered an explanation for the Oct. 23 incident that landed Cruz in jail.

According to court records, Cruz may have spent up to seven hours at the store before his alleged crimes were reported.

He was accused of stroking the buttocks of a 15-year-old girl and at least two other women and then waiting to watch their reactions.

Family members stabbed

CA ANTONIO CITY — A man is in jail facing three charges of attempted murder, while his mother, father and sister are recovering from multiple stab wounds from his apparent attack in the family's home.

Police were summoned to the home after a neighbor reported two women running from the house, bloodied and screaming hysterically.

Janice Estanque, 22, with wounds to her neck, left a trail of blood as she ran down the street knocking on five different doors before someone finally called 911.

While paramedics attended to the women, officers were alerted to the home by a man screaming that someone was trying to kill him.

The desperate man was Eifren Estanque, 32, who was named under his son Jeffrey Estanque, 20, on the front porch as his son tried to stab him with a butcher knife, said Union City Police Lt. Kelly Musgrove.

Police jolted the younger Estanque in the arm with two hits from a Taser gun. Capt. Brian Foley told reporters that Jeffrey Estanque had been depressed lately.

Heroic bus riders

FL ST. PETERSBURG — Passengers stopped a charter bus from plunging nearly 200 feet off a bridge after the driver collapsed, apparently from a heart attack.

The bus was near the top of the Sunshine Skyway bridge when Thomas Grove, 61, fell out of his seat, passengers and authorities said.

It slammed into the 3-foot concrete wall, which blocks vehicles

from tumbling into Tampa Bay. Three of the five passengers jumped out of their seats and ran toward the front.

The passengers — all unharmed — called 911 and Amtrak, which uses the bus to shuttle passengers from Fort Myers to Tampa. They spent another 10 minutes in the bus because they didn't know how to open the door.

Two nurses driving by stopped to help, performing CPR on the driver. Grove, of Pinellas Park, died within hours at a hospital.

Early reports suggested he may have had a heart attack, authorities said.

Political disputes

NY LAKE PLACID — A mayoral candidate here known for walking around town with a parrot named Arturo Tortilla on his shoulder has been charged with felony burglary, accused of stealing an acquaintance's Dirt Devil vacuum.

Michael Sullivan, 58, was released from the Essex County Jail after posting \$500 bail, said Sheriff Henry Hommes.

Sullivan spent two nights at a vacant home owned by Christopher McGill, police told the Adirondack Daily Enterprise.

But on the second night, McGill left a note for Sullivan that read, "Two nights is too many, three nights and you're out." The letter also warned the mayoral hopeful that if he stayed a third night, it would be trespassing, police said.

Later, McGill, discovered his vacuum missing. After finding a green feather belonging to Sullivan's parrot, McGill determined Sullivan not only ignored his warning, but made off with his Dirt Devil, authorities said.

Sullivan was charged with second-degree burglary, according to police.

College vaccinations

KS TOPEKA — Starting next year, more than 4,800 students living in group housing at the University of Kansas must be vaccinated against meningitis or sign a waiver, university officials announced. The policy will apply to students living in dormitories, smaller scholarship halls or an apartment complex operated by the university.

Naughty firefighters

CA SAN FRANCISCO — An internal complaint about an adult entertainment program played in a San Francisco International Airport firehouse has led officials to quietly tell firefighters that such entertainment is not appropriate and that anyone bringing it in could face discipline.

High-ranking departmental officers have been meeting with firefighters in recent days after a firefighter told Chief Joanne Hayes-White about at least two firefighters watching the adult program in a common area of the station Oct. 28.

In the past, department officials have come under fire for failing to crack down on allegations of sexual harassment and drinking in the firehouses. Recently, firefighters have been brought up on disciplinary charges related to drinking and sexual harassment.

Stories and photos from wire reports

IN THE WORLD

Bush seeks support against nuclear threats

BY JENNIFER LOVEN

The Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile — President Bush on Saturday tried to marshal international support to counter dual nuclear threats from Iran and North Korea, two nations in what he calls an "axis of evil."

Diplomats say Iran is producing significant quantities of a gas that can be used to make nuclear arms just days before it must stop all work related to uranium enrichment.

"It is very important for the Iran government to hear that we are concerned about their desires and we're concerned about

reports that show that before a certain international meeting they're willing to speed up the processing of materials that could lead to a nuclear weapon," Bush said.

"This is a very serious matter. The world knows it's a serious matter and we're working together to solve this matter," he said.

Bush lauded the efforts of European nations involved in diplomatic to persuade Iran not to pursue nuclear weapons. Iran last week agreed to suspend uranium enrichment and all related activities in a deal worked out with Britain, France, Germany and the European Union.

The deal, which goes into force Monday, prohibits Iran from all uranium gas-processing activities, as well as other programs linked to enrichment.

"They do believe that Iran has got nuclear ambitions, as do we, as do many around the world," Bush said.

On North Korea, Bush said the



Bush

communist nation's leader, Kim Jong Il, will "hear a common voice" from the United States and its regional partners demanding it stop its nuclear weapons program.

Bush spoke on the sidelines of the annual 21-nation Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, which came at a time of heightened concern over Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Bush met in quick succession with four partners in now-stalled talks with the communist regime in Pyongyang, Russia, South Korea, Japan, the United States, China and North Korea make up the six-party talks.

Three rounds of talks held in Beijing since last year have yielded little progress and North Korea refused to attend a fourth round slated for September. Bush administration officials believe North Korea dragged its feet on the talks earlier this year, awaiting the outcome of the U.S. presidential election.

"What's very important is for the leader of the North Korea to understand that the six-party talks will be the framework in which we continue to discuss the mutual goal we all have, which is to rid the Korean Peninsula of nuclear weapons," Bush said, sitting with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

Ukraine's troubled election finally goes to voters

BY JIM HEINTZ

The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Ukrainians choose a president Sunday after months of tension that included widespread allegations of official interference, claims that a candidate was poisoned by his foes and a cliffhanger first-round vote.

The runoff election between Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and reformist Viktor Yushchenko could determine whether the ex-Soviet republic of 48 million pursues closer integration with the West or comes more into the Kremlin's sphere of influence.



Yanukovich

week for a credible vote.

"You play a central role in ensuring that Ukraine's election is democratic and free of fraud and manipulation," Bush said in a

letter delivered Friday to President Leonid Kuchma, who is not seeking a new term. "A tarnished election, however, will lead us to review our relations with Ukraine."

The Oct. 31 first round was riddled with complaints of voting irregularities and intimidation. The Central Elections Commission took 10 days to announce the results, raising questions about its procedures.

The final count showed Yushchenko



Yushchenko

barely ahead of Yanukovich, each with slightly more than 39 percent of the vote, even though all previous partial tallies put Yanukovich ahead.

Since then, Yushchenko's campaign has continued to claim its supporters are being intimidated. On Saturday, the campaign said two allies of Yushchenko were beaten in Kiev while investigating possible vote-rigging; however, the news agency Interfax later cited police as saying one of the deputies had beaten a police officer. Yanukovich's staff said Saturday it had received reports of voter list irregularities and claims that pens with disappearing ink were being distributed, the news agency Unian reported.

8 dead after blast levels apartment building in Italy

The Associated Press

FOGGIA, Italy — An explosion leveled a two-story apartment building in this southern city early Saturday, killing eight people and injuring another six, authorities said.

Hours after the blast, rescuers digging through the rubble removed the last body, that of a 79-year-old man who lived in a basement apartment.

Fire Company Chief Vincenzo De Rosa, speaking by telephone from the scene, said the blast might have been caused by a gas leak, but said it was too soon to tell. Earlier, state radio quoted authorities as saying that a gas leak, possibly from a faulty gas canister, appeared to be the cause.

The explosion, which occurred just after 3 a.m., turned the building into a pile of rubble. Mattresses hurled by the force of the blast landed in the street, where some parked cars were heavily damaged.

The dead reportedly included an entire family — the parents and their two children — and three members of another family who lived in the building. At least six residents escaped with injuries, most of them slight, authorities said. The youngest victim was reportedly a boy of seven.

In November 1999, 67 people perished when a six-story apartment building in Foggia collapsed. An investigation concluded in early 2000 that shoddy construction caused the disaster.

Gas blasts are not uncommon in Italy, where many people use gas canisters instead of more expensive boilers for heating and cooking.



Rescuers look for survivors after a two-story building was destroyed Saturday in an explosion in Foggia, southern Italy. Officials said eight people were killed and six more were injured in the blast, which may have been caused by a gas leak.

Afghan gets death for killing journalists

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — An Afghan court sentenced a man to death Saturday for the 2001 killing of three foreign journalists and an Afghan colleague who were pulled from their cars, robbed and shot as they rushed to cover the collapse of the Taliban.

The court also convicted Reza Khan of raping an Italian reporter before she died in one of the deadliest attacks on foreign civilians since the fall of the former hardline regime.

"You are sentenced to death," Presiding Judge Abdul Basit Bakhtiyari told Khan after a brief session of Afghanistan's Primary National Security Court.

Armed men stopped the journalists as they drove from the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad to the capital on Nov. 19, 2001, six days after the Taliban abandoned Kabul following heavy U.S. bombing.

The four were Australian TV cameraman Harry Burton and Afghan photographer Azizullah Haidari of Reuters new agency; Maria Grazia Cutuli of Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera, and Julio Fuentes of the Spanish El Mundo daily.

It was unclear whether Khan, who listened impassively as the verdict was announced, would appeal the death sentence or a separate 15-year jail term.

Khan had admitted shooting one of the foreigners — it was unclear which — and raping Cutuli in a confession broadcast on Afghan state television in August.

YOUR MONEY



Shoppers Dulce Villarreal, left, and her friend Maria Melendez, both of Tustin, Calif., do their back-to-school shopping at MainPlace Mall in Santa Ana in August. Last year, for the first time, cash and checks accounted for less than half of in-store purchase payments, according to a study. It also shows debit-card transactions increased from 21 percent five years ago to 31 percent last year.

Debit cards: Time well-spent?

BY MARY ANN MILBOURN

Orange County (Calif.) Register

When Palmerin Perez goes shopping, she doesn't leave home without it, but "it" isn't the American Express card.

Perez takes her debit card to pay for everything she buys, including the sweater she bought this month at Westfield MainPlace mall in Santa Ana, Calif., and cannot imagine paying any other way.

"It takes [the money] directly out of my checking account," said Perez, 30, of Union City, N.J., who is visiting in Orange County. "I never have to worry about credit."

Perez is one of millions of Americans, especially younger consumers, who increasingly favor debit cards over other forms of payment.

A recent Harris Poll conducted for Visa USA showed when it comes to buying an article of fall clothing, such as a sweater or jeans, nearly half of the 1,562 people surveyed said they were most likely to use a debit card. Among 18- to 34-year-olds such as Perez, 54 percent said they would use debit cards.

"That's what we're seeing more of the board," said Seth Eisen, a Visa spokesman. "More and more people are using debit cards for purchases."

Debit cards, which electronically deduct money directly from a consumer's checking account, are just one more example of how modern technology is changing the way people handle their money.

Fastest payment method

Which payment type gets customers through the checkout line fastest?

| Payment method | Age 18-34 | Age 35-44 | Age 45-54 | Age 55+ | All ages |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|----------|
| Cash | 39% | 47% | 49% | 58% | 50% |
| Debit card | 38% | 38% | 30% | 20% | 29% |
| Credit card | 18% | 10% | 13% | 13% | 15% |
| Check | 1% | 1% | 2% | 1% | 1% |
| Not sure | 5% | 4% | 6% | 8% | 5% |

Preferred payment method

If you were buying a single article of clothing, which payment methods would you be most likely to use?

| Payment method | Age 18-34 | Age 35-44 | Age 45-54 | Age 55+ | All ages |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|----------|
| Debit card | 54% | 53% | 48% | 37% | 48% |
| Credit card | 17% | 24% | 23% | 37% | 28% |
| Cash | 23% | 18% | 19% | 16% | 20% |
| Check | 5% | 5% | 10% | 10% | 3% |
| Other* | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 5% |

*Gift card, travelers checks, etc.

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Survey: National Interactive poll for Visa USA of 1,562 U.S. adults. Sept. 1-15, 2004. 3 percent margin of error. Graphic: The Orange County Register

Note: Figures may not total 100 percent due to rounding

Because of their convenience and widespread acceptance by merchants, debit cards are rapidly becoming the new cash. In fact, for the first time last year, cash and checks accounted for less than half the payments — 47 percent — for in-store purchases, according to a study by the American Bankers Association and Boston-based Dove Consulting Group. Just five years ago, they made up 57 percent.

During the same period, the

study said, debit-card transactions increased from 21 percent five years ago to 31 percent as of last year.

Luis Gonzalez, 23, and his wife Vanessa, 22, of Orange, are dedicated debit-card users. "They are easy to carry — you don't have to carry money around," said Luis Gonzalez. "It's also easier to track receipts. You can go home and check your account online."

SEE DEBIT ON PAGE 21

Adviser: Retirees should spend, too

Being frugal not only way to stay afloat

BY JONATHAN CLEMENTS

The Wall Street Journal

Many retirees have trimmed their spending during recent years, and it isn't just because of plunging bond yields and tumbling stock prices. Instead, they have been reacting to dire warnings from Wall Street, cautioning them that their portfolios can't sustain the sort of withdrawal rates that used to be considered safe. Feeling pinched? Don't resign yourself to a lifetime of scrimping and saving just yet.

A new study by Minneapolis certified financial planner Jonathan Guyton analyzed how to generate 40 years of income while surviving brutal market conditions, such as high inflation and a steep market decline early in retirement. He found retirees may be able to withdraw as much as 6.2 percent initially.

When experts talk about withdrawal rates, they are typically referring to the percentage of a portfolio's value withdrawn during the first year of retirement.

Thereafter, retirees are assumed to increase their withdrawals along with inflation. Let's say you retired with \$600,000, inflation ran at 3 percent and you used a 6 percent withdrawal rate. In that scenario, you would withdraw \$36,000 in the first year of retirement, \$37,080 in year two, \$38,192 in year three and so on.

Keep two things in mind. First, you will owe taxes, so not all this money can be spent. Second, if you spend your dividends and interest, these sums count toward the amount withdrawn.

The strategy of increasing withdrawals along with inflation works fine, provided the markets and inflation are moderately well-behaved. But if you get hit with either rapid inflation or a

devastating market crash, you can rapidly run out of money, as you make larger and larger withdrawals from an ever-shrinking portfolio.

If your portfolio loses money during the year, you can't give yourself a raise the following year. In other words, if you add up your portfolio's year-end value and the money withdrawn during the prior 12 months and this sum is less than your portfolio's beginning-of-year value, you can't increase your next year's withdrawal to compensate for inflation.

Also, avoid selling hard-hit stock funds. Instead, each year, start by lightening up on winning stock funds.

Finally, "rebalance" your bond funds back to their target percentages, and sweep the gains into your money fund. The proceeds from rebalancing, plus the cash already in your money fund, should cover your spending needs.

If it doesn't, you should draw down your bonds even further. As a last resort, sell more of your stock funds, starting with the prior year's best performers.

The first and second rules will occasionally limit spending increases, so there's a chance that retirees who use Guyton's strategy will receive less total income over 40 years than if they had started with a lower initial withdrawal rate but got inflation increases every year.

Still, retirees get a decent amount of income initially and they may never see the downside, either because they don't live long enough or because the markets prove relatively benign.

As Guyton puts it, "I wouldn't want to be the financial planner who has to look at an 85-year-old client in the eye and explain why he has so much money and why he's had so little fun."

American Airlines tossing its pillows

Cash-strapped American Airlines on Wednesday said it is trying to take some of the fluff out of its costs. So the world's largest carrier is eliminating pillows on its planes.

The multibillion-dollar airline, the world's largest carrier, figures it will save about \$300,000 a year by doing away with the pillows on about half of its fleet — 334 MD-80s, American officials said.

But what the airline may gain in savings it may lose in its appeal to customers, analysts said.

According to American, pillowless airplanes translate into savings because workers will be able to clean the planes faster between flights. That will reduce the time aircraft sit at airport gates.

But what will passengers think when they get to the MD-80s with no heads back and find — no pillow? "We think in many cases the customers won't miss it," said Ned Reynolds, an American spokesman in Manhattan.

But Vaughn Cordle, chief analyst for Airline Forecasts LLC, consultants in Washington, D.C., said airlines should be so sure about that "Passengers will not be over time," Cordle said. "The quality of the service deteriorates because of the financial distress."

American said it chose MD-80s because they have adjustable headrests that can be used in place of pillows. And just in case passengers think American is becoming a no-frills carrier, it noted that the MD-80s would continue to carry blankets.

From wire reports

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Don't let abortion dominate Dayton (Ohio) Daily News

OK, the time is long past due for a discussion of the presidential election of 2008.

Wouldn't it be something — interesting, fun, cool, something — if, next time around, the Republicans put up a candidate who favors abortion rights and the Democrats put somebody who opposes them? The government spends trillions of dollars and presides over a country of extraordinary complexity and diversity. And yet one social issue is at the center in determining people's politics.

Candidates fit molds, slide along grooves. More focus is put on such simple, divisive issues as abortion, religion and gay marriage, as opposed to policy decisions that will have more impact on the well being of the country and world.

Somewhere the American body politic has to dig itself out of these grooves.

Perhaps the beginning is for thoughtful citizens to decide that abortion is not the be-all-and-end-all issue.

Put Sudan solution on map Los Angeles Times

The Sudanese government has a bizarre understanding of what peace means. After leaders signed a cease-fire agreement with rebels in the western territory of Darfur, government troops stormed refugee camps there, beat inhabitants and forced them to move. The death toll in Darfur is now estimated at 50,000 and will keep rising without stronger action from the international community.

The U.N. Security Council met in Nairobi last week with Sudan a major topic. Diplomats ... should take tougher action against the Khartoum government, such as an embargo on Sudanese oil, unless it stops beating and starving people in Darfur.

The United States and other countries have helped with peacekeeping logistics, including flying African Union troops to Darfur. But the number of peacekeepers must be increased quickly. The current 500 are overstretched. ... Credible threats of sanctions against the Sudanese government and the rebels, plus additional international soldiers and police, can increase the likelihood of an end to the killings and forced relocations.

Loyalty at top of Bush's list The Forum, Fargo, N.D.

The real story about last week's changes in President Bush's Cabinet is the Cabinet's remarkable stability during his first term. Turnover has been minimal when measured against the Cabinet churn of other presidents during a first term.

What the national press is describing as "shake-up" is, in effect, expected change among the president's top advisers. The fact that most of his key Cabinet secretaries ... have been on the job for nearly all of the president's four years is a remarkable record that speaks to the president's ability to assemble and hold a loyal team.

Further confirming the strength of the president's team is that Cabinet replacements named this far have been White House insiders. ...

President Bush plays a team game in which he is the team captain. Stray from the planbook and expect to get the boot.

Powell, of course, could not be booted in the way [Paul] O'Neill was [from treasury] because the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff enjoyed such a huge, enormous credibility and popularity among Americans.



CHANGE AT STATE...

Nonetheless, the Cabinet news is not a shake-up. It's a shuffle, of sorts, that merely underscores the value this president puts on loyalty, even at the expense of constructive and sometimes necessary disagreement.

Tasers: A shock to the system Florida Today, Melbourne, Fla.

Police officers must make split-second judgments in volatile situations.

But shooting children with Taser stun guns — except perhaps in the most dire cases — is unacceptable. In the past two weeks, however, police in Miami-Dade County used stun guns to subdue two children.

Tasers have their place in law enforcement as an alternative to deadly force, but must not become the option of first resort when less-risky intervention tactics exist. Considered a nonlethal tool, Tasers deliver a highly painful 50,000-volt charge. Their use has possibly contributed to a number of deaths, and their safety never has been adequately established by independent studies.

Most important, we know virtually nothing about how they might adversely affect children, who are quite different physically from adults.

The Miami-Dade Police Department should issue a moratorium on using Tasers on children until the two cases are thoroughly investigated and officers are retrained.

Backing wind power is a breeze The Columbian, Vancouver, Wash.

With the mighty Columbia River funneling about 90,000 cubic feet per second into the river west of Astoria, Ore. ... We wish Crowley and the other companies well in their business ventures, because this trend will lead to cleaner air. ...

We're not saying these wind turbines won't be noticed. ... But whatever distraction wind turbines may present (some folks consider them fun to watch, almost enchant-

ing) is certainly worth the advantages provided by wind energy. Already across America, wind turbines are producing enough pollution-free energy to serve more than 1 million homes.

So bring on the steady whoop-whoop-whoops of wind turbines. The time is rapidly expiring for producing energy by burning coal and gas. Power producers increasingly will have no choice but to ... start reaching up, to harness the free and clean wind.

Theorists don't have a prayer Rocky Mountain News, Denver

Any hope that this year's brutal political rhetoric would diminish after Nov. 2 has been utterly dashed. ... Supposedly serious people have actually begun to worry — or at least to say they worry — about the rise of theory in America.

Yes, that is the incendiary word anguished commentators have used — "theory" — in publications as mainstream as USA Today and The Miami Herald, not to mention more partisan enclaves such as The Village Voice and Salon.com. Writing in the New York Times, Gary Hart joined the hysterical herd, warning of "the disturbing tendency to insert theoretical principles into the vision of America's role in the world." Puritans elsewhere lamented the endorsement of "an extremist Christian regime" or predicted the descent into "another dark age."

Finally, those worried about theory should keep in mind that the actual percentage of voters who identified moral values as their top concern was roughly one-fifth. Most voted for Bush, but so did most voters who favor tax relief and who see the war in Iraq as critical for U.S. security. It is no sense to claim that a horde of religious zealots put Bush over the top.

'Ryan's' hope dashed by execs The Des Moines (Iowa) Register

Some ABC affiliates, including WOI-TV in Des Moines and KCAU-TV in Sioux City, chose not to air "Saving Private Ryan" on Veterans Day. The World War II movie contains violence and foul language broadcasters feared would result in sanctions from the Federal Communications Commission, which tightened regulations and upped indecency fines after the infamous Janet Jackson Super Bowl halftime show.

Now some Americans can't watch an Oscar-winning war movie on TV.

Broadcasters have been upset over new regulations for months.

Pulling a popular war movie on Veterans Day provides the perfect opportunity to turn public opinion against the FCC crackdown. The regulations are absurd.

Americans already tune in nightly to cable television not regulated by the government. A satellite dish picks up hundreds of channels outside the reach of the FCC. Bad language, sexually graphic material and extreme violence are as close as the next click of the remote. Regulating a few channels and fining a few broadcasters won't ensure wholesome television for Americans.

Programming decisions should be left to broadcasters. And their decisions should be based on public reaction.

As always, the best form of censorship is the off button.

Powell departure ends debate The Democrat and Chronicle, Rochester, N.Y.

As expected, Secretary of State Colin Powell is leaving the Bush administration. He was one of four Cabinet members whose pending departures were disclosed Monday.

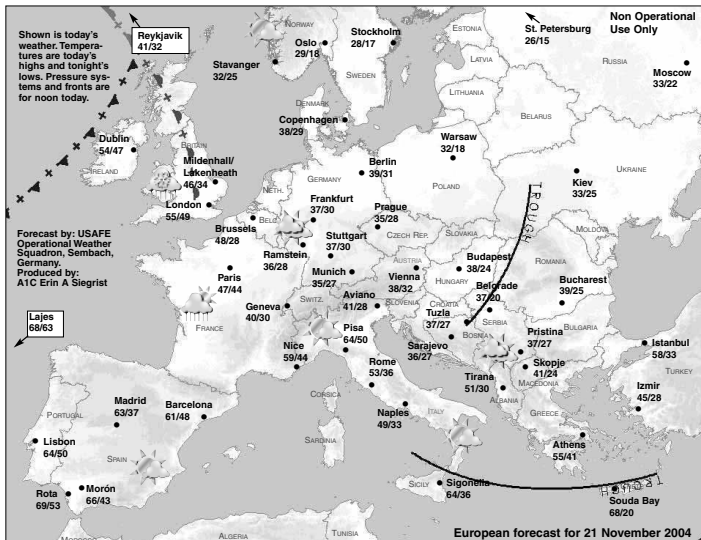
Without question, Powell's exit represents the biggest loss to both the administration and the nation.

He epitomized statesmanship, a quality that is becoming increasingly rare among government leaders. In fact, his respected stature made all the difference for many who were unsure about supporting the American invasion of Iraq. They surmised: If Powell, who oversaw the Persian Gulf War, believed there were weapons of mass destruction in Saddam Hussein's Iraq, that was good enough. ...

Now it could happen that [Vice President Dick] Cheney and [Defense Secretary Donald] Rumsfeld, both hawks, will get their way at the State Department without a fight. That's a scary.

Though Powell, a military man for 35 years, was a good soldier, he also could be counted on to speak his mind. That's an attribute good leaders should value from their team members. Even if Powell wound up on the losing side, he at least forced consideration of a different point of view.

The administration and the American people will miss Colin Powell.



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Partly cloudy skies with rain/snow mix late. Highs in the 40s, Monday lows will be in the upper 20s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy skies with rain/snow showers in the north. Highs in the mid 40s to mid 50s, Monday lows will be in the low 30s to upper 40s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Mostly cloudy skies with morning fog. Highs in the upper 30s, Monday lows will be in the mid to upper 20s.

France: Partly to mostly cloudy skies with isolated rain showers in the north. Highs in the mid 40s to upper 50s, Monday lows will be in the low 30s to mid 40s.

Northern Germany: Partly to mostly cloudy skies. Highs in the upper 30s, Monday lows will be in the low 30s.

Southern Germany: Partly to mostly cloudy skies. Highs in the 30s, Monday lows will be in the upper 20s to low 30s.

Hungary: Partly to mostly cloudy skies with isolated snow showers. Highs in the upper 30s, Monday lows will be in the mid 20s.

Northern Italy: Partly cloudy skies. Highs in the low 40s to low 50s, Monday lows will be in the upper 20s to low 30s.

Southern Italy: Sunny to partly cloudy skies. Highs in the low 50s to upper 60s, Monday lows will be in the 30s.

Kosovo: Mostly cloudy skies with morning fog. Highs in the upper 30s, Monday lows will be in the low to mid 20s.

Norway: Mostly cloudy skies. Highs in the upper 20s to low 30s, Monday lows will be in the upper teens to upper 20s.

Portugal, Spain: Mostly cloudy skies. Highs in the 50s, Monday lows will be in the mid 30s inland, to low 40s and low 50s along the coastline.

Turkey: Mostly cloudy skies with rain showers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 50s to low 60s along the western coast, to mid 70s in the east. Monday lows will be in the mid 20s to low 30s along the western coast, to low 60s in the east.



For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts, visit the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at: <https://www.sembach.af.mil> <http://www.public.sembach.af.mil>

THE WORLD

| City | HI | LO | City | HI | LO |
|--------------|----|----|-------------|----|----|
| Amsterdam | 46 | 39 | Manila | 88 | 74 |
| Bahran | 87 | 71 | Mexico City | 74 | 47 |
| Beijing | 56 | 33 | Montreal | 44 | 37 |
| Bombay | 93 | 71 | Riyadh | 89 | 69 |
| Buenos Aires | 72 | 66 | Rio de Jan | 79 | 68 |
| Buenos Aires | 72 | 66 | Sao Paulo | 73 | 53 |
| Calcutta | 77 | 67 | Sydney | 70 | 61 |
| Chengdu | 64 | 50 | Tokyo | 61 | 51 |

| City | HI | LO | City | HI | LO |
|-----------|-------|----|-----------|-------|----|
| Cairo | 75/60 | | Tel Aviv | 76/60 | |
| Baghdad | 74/52 | | Tehran | 61/46 | |
| Ashgabat | 63/44 | | Kabul | 63/38 | |
| Islamabad | 79/50 | | New Delhi | 62/55 | |
| Kandahar | 81/48 | | Zahedan | 81/45 | |
| Doha | 90/87 | | Dubai | 90/72 | |
| Bombay | 93/71 | | Hyderabad | 85/60 | |

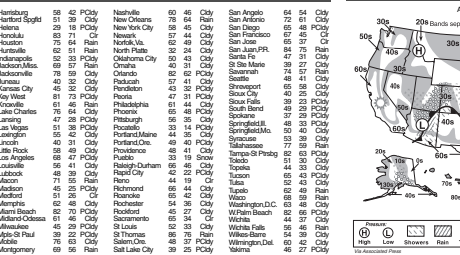
SUN & MOON

| City | Sunrise | Sunset | Moon | Phase | Time |
|---------------------|---------|--------|-----------|-------|-------|
| Sembach (Baghdad) | 6:00am | 6:41pm | Full moon | 100% | 12:00 |
| Sembach (Frankfurt) | 7:48am | 7:50pm | Full moon | 100% | 12:00 |
| Sembach (Baghdad) | 4:58pm | 4:58pm | Full moon | 100% | 12:00 |
| Sembach (Frankfurt) | 4:35pm | 4:34pm | Full moon | 100% | 12:00 |

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

| City | HI | LO | City | HI | LO |
|--------------|----|----|------------------|----|----|
| Albany, Tex. | 60 | 33 | Cleveland | 50 | 33 |
| Albany, Tex. | 60 | 33 | Colorado Springs | 50 | 33 |
| Albany, Tex. | 60 | 33 | Columbia, S.C. | 50 | 33 |
| Albany, Tex. | 60 | 33 | Columbia, S.C. | 50 | 33 |
| Albany, Tex. | 60 | 33 | Columbia, S.C. | 50 | 33 |
| Albany, Tex. | 60 | 33 | Columbia, S.C. | 50 | 33 |
| Albany, Tex. | 60 | 33 | Columbia, S.C. | 50 | 33 |
| Albany, Tex. | 60 | 33 | Columbia, S.C. | 50 | 33 |
| Albany, Tex. | 60 | 33 | Columbia, S.C. | 50 | 33 |

THE UNITED STATES TODAY



Scheduled to **ETS** or **PCs**

Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.

STARS AND STRIPES
Your Homework Stripes

Santa Clara shocks No. 4 North Carolina

BY JANIE MCCAULEY

The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Roy Williams traveled a long way to get outfitted by an old golfing buddy.

Travis Niesen scored 26 points and Kyle Bailey made three second-half three-pointers as Santa Clara spoiled No. 4 North Carolina's season opener 77-66 Friday night in the Pete Niewelt Challenge.

The cold-shooting Tar Heels lost their opener for only the fifth time since 1930 and will certainly lose their highest preseason ranking in seven years.

Williams blamed himself for not having his team better prepared, but also gave credit to his longtime friend, Santa Clara coach Dick Davey.

"I've got to do a heck of a lot better job and do the little things we've talked about all along," Williams said. "We are extremely disappointed. Ticked off is what I am, but I'm ticked off at myself not at the kids."

Williams invited Davey golfing at fancy Cypress Point earlier in the week — and when their teams met on the basketball court, Santa Clara always seemed closer to the hole.

Niesen and 6-foot-2 dynamo Doron Perkins scored inside consistently, while the Broncos got most of the big rebounds. Santa Clara mostly kept North Carolina on the perimeter, where the Heels' poor shoot-



Santa Clara's Doron Perkins (30) celebrates after his team's 77-66 victory over No. 4 North Carolina on Friday night.

ing doomed them in their first game on the West Coast in four years.

Niesen forced himself to ignore the name on North Carolina's baby blue uniforms and just play.

"I don't think I'm very good, I just play really hard," said Niesen, who made 10 of his 14 shots. "I'm not afraid of anyone, man."

Sean May had 19 points and nine rebounds in the first meeting between these schools since Michael Jordan's playing days. Rashad McCants scored 15 of his 20 points in the second half before fouling out in the final minute.

When it ended, Niesen threw the ball up high enough to hit the overhead scoreboard, then walked in front of the fans, holding out his jersey while the crowd cheered.

"It feels like they're more athletic at every position," said Perkins, who added 11 points and nine rebounds. "We came out with energy we've never come with before."

North Carolina shot 36.5 percent and went 14-for-24 from the free throw line — not exactly the kind of basketball expected from a top-five team.

Bailey finished with 20 points for Santa Clara (3-1), which already played three games in the NABC Classic last week, including a 34-point loss to host New Mexico.

North Carolina never looked comfortable on either end of the floor, probably in part because the Heels were without suspended point guard Raymond Felton.

"We didn't get a real feel of the game," said freshman Quentin Thomas, a former prep star in Oakland who earned the start in place of Felton. "Our shots weren't falling, but at the same time we couldn't turn it over."

They began a stretch of seven games in 16 days with an ugly offensive night and didn't match the energy of the Broncos, who beat a top-five team for only the third time in Davey's 13-year tenure.

But he was more interested in scouting

the Stanford-San Francisco game afterward than celebrating one big win.

"Obviously, I'm excited about the victory, but I think you have to keep things in perspective," Davey said. "It's only one game."

Bailey made back-to-back three-pointers to give the Broncos a 45-32 lead with 15:16 remaining, and Santa Clara kept making big baskets down the stretch to avoid any drama late.

Williams went with Thomas over Melvin Scott and Wes Miller to replace Felton, who served a one-game suspension for playing in a non-certified summer league. Thomas had his prep uniform retired at halftime.

North Carolina returns all five starters from a team that went 19-11 last season, and Williams wants the Heels to be better defensively this season. But after this poor offensive performance he'll certainly have them working even harder on their shooting, too.

The Tar Heels had won 68 of their previous 73 season openers and played Santa Clara for only the third time. North Carolina won the last meeting in 1982, led by Jordan's 22 points in the 79-56 victory.

Even when they weren't under pressure, the taller and bigger Tar Heels couldn't knock down open shots — reserve C.J. Hooker missed an open dunk with 20 seconds left. They were routinely beaten to loose balls.

No. 1 Jayhawks escape upset

The Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Vermont was not worried about playing the nation's No. 1 team on the road. For much of the night, it was the capacity crowd at Allen Fieldhouse that seemed nervous.

The Catamounts gave top-ranked Kansas and their fans a big scare Friday night before the Jayhawks finally pulled away in the final minutes for a 68-61 victory.

Vermont, which returns four starters from last year's 22-9 team, held a four-point lead with less than five minutes left.

"Our guys did not seem intimidated," Vermont coach Tom Brennan said. "There were a couple of close calls at the end that did not go our way. But we were still in the game with two minutes left."

Wayne Simien had 25 points and 14 rebounds and scored the last four points of a 9-2 game-ending run.

"Wayne Simien is a horse," Kansas guard Keith Langford said. "We just get on his back and ride."

Simien had a double-double at halftime, which ended with Kansas holding a tenuous three-point lead.

"Who scheduled that one?" said Simien with a laugh. "The first game is supposed to ease into the season. But we knew they were going to come out and play us tough."

The Jayhawks, who haven't started a season No. 1 since Will Chamberlain was in school, trailed the underdog Catamounts 58-51 when Taylor Coppentrath hit a short jumper with 4:24 left.

Christian Moody, a walk-on starter, then made two free throws

Men's AP Top 25

to give Kansas a 61-59 lead with 2:49 left and start a 9-2 run that extinguished Vermont's bid for what would have been one of the great upsets in school history.

No. 3 Georgia Tech 74, Alabama St. 37: At Atlanta, Jarrett Jack scored 20 points and Georgia Tech held Alabama State scoreless for more than nine minutes to begin the game.

The Hornets, also playing their season opener, were trailing 2-0 before the tipoff. Tyrece Legette was given a technical for dunking during pregame warmups, and Jack hit two free throws before the game began.

No. 5 Syracuse 77, No. 24 Memphis 62: At New York, Hakim Warrick had 25 points and Gerry McNamara added 21 to help Syracuse win the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic championship. Rodney Carney, coming off a career-high 33 points in the semifinals, had 25 points for Memphis (3-1).

No. 6 Illinois 87, Delaware St. 67: At Champaign, Ill., De Brown scored 17 points to help Illinois win its season opener.

No. 7 Oklahoma St. 91, Northwestern St. 53: John Lucas scored 24 points and Joey Graham added 18, leading host Oklahoma State to a victory in its season opener.

Graham scored 15 first-half points, and Lucas had 16 after the break for the Cowboys. Ivan McFarlin added 14 points for Oklahoma State.

No. 12 Mississippi St. 67,

Saint Mary's 54: At New York, Lawrence Roberts scored 20 points to lead Mississippi State to a third-place finish in the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic tournament. Despite playing with a face mask because of a broken nose, Roberts finished 6-for-18 from the field and had seven rebounds.

No. 13 Michigan St. 104, Florida A&M 72: Kelvin Torbert scored 21 points and helped Michigan State win its season opener at home. Maurice Ager added 20 points for the Spartans.

No. 15 Maryland 93, Jackson St. 57: At College Park, Md., Travis Garrison scored 18 points and helped Maryland pulled away after halftime.

Ekene Ibekwe had a career-high 17 points and eight rebounds for the Terrapins.

No. 16 Texas 95, Texas St. 63: P.J. Tucker scored 18 points to lead the Longhorns in their season opener at home. Brad Buckman and Kenton Paulino each scored 13 for the Longhorns.

No. 18 Alabama 97, Western Carolina 66: At Tuscaloosa, Ala., Kennedy Winston scored 24 points and the Crimson Tide was never tested after the first five minutes.

Point guard Ronald Steele became only the third freshman to start a season opener for the Crimson Tide. He scored three points.

No. 19 North Carolina St. 100, East Carolina 66: At Raleigh, N.C., Tony Bethel scored 22 points to lead North Carolina State in the championship game of the BCA Invitational.

The Wolfpack (3-0) cruised through the three games.

No. 20 Notre Dame 66, Har-



Vermont forward Taylor Coppentrath, top, ties up Kansas guard Keith Langford during the second half at Allen Fieldhouse in Lawrence, Kan.

vard 59: Chris Quinn scored 20 points and Chris Thomas added 17 as host Notre Dame won despite blowing an 18-point lead.

Brian Cusworth led Harvard with 15 points and 13 rebounds for the Crimson.

No. 22 Washington 89, Seattle Pacific 71: At Seattle, Brandon Roy scored 23 points and Nate Robinson added 22 to lead Washington in its season opener. Freshman Joel Smith scored 15

points, while Mike Jensen had 14 points for Washington.

No. 23 Florida 81, Jacksonville 59: At Jacksonville, Fla., Anthony Robinson scored 19 points and David Lee added 15 points.

No. 25 Gonzaga 98, Portland St. 80: At Spokane, Wash., Ronny Turiaf scored a career-high 33 points and Gonzaga shot 65 percent to win its season opener.

Blake Walker led Portland State with 22 points.

Giants QB Manning will face tough defense in debut

BY DAVE GOLDBERG
The Associated Press

When it was announced Eli Manning would start for the New York Giants against Atlanta on Sunday, the Falcons quickly became 2½-point favorites in a game that opened at pick 'em.

Ben Roethlisberger's success aside, that's the perception of rookie quarterbacks — they cost their team almost a field goal, especially when they have a leaky offensive line and are facing a good pass rush.

But Tom Coughlin made the switch in part because Kurt Warner has been tentative in the Giants' last four games, three of them losses. Coughlin's reasoning: Manning gets rid of the ball faster and is at the point where he's comfortable with the system.

Both teams are like most of the league — unpredictable.

In losing three of four, the Giants were beaten by Detroit and Chicago at home and by Arizona on the road, all games they could have (some say "should have") won. They won at Minnesota as an underdog.

The Falcons were beaten in Kansas City 56-10 but came back the next week to win at Denver.

One more thing: The Giants have lost at home to Atlanta in each of the last two seasons, but Michael Vick was hurt both times. Two years ago, Doug

NFL picks

Johnson was the quarterback, last year it was Kurt Kittner. Johnson is now Tennessee's third-stringer, and Kittner has been cut this year by the Falcons, Bengals, Giants, Patriots and Steelers.

Because neither Johnson nor Kittner is playing this week, and because New York's offensive line — which has allowed 24 sacks in the last four games — will be cut en masse if it doesn't protect the future of the franchise

... **GIANTS, 20-19**
New England (minus 3) at Kansas City (Monday night): Another one of those Monday nighters that looked good on paper when it was scheduled. The Patriots play fast and loose now that the burden of the streak is off. ... **PATRIOTS, 34-20**

Indianapolis (minus 7) at Chicago: Louis Smith should be a coach of the year candidate for winning three straight with Craig Krenzel at QB. But he doesn't have Brian Urlacher on his side, and Peyton Manning plays for the other guys. ... **COLTS, 27-17**

Pittsburgh (minus 4½) at Cincinnati: The Steelers keep the hammer down. ... **STEELERS, 27-13**

Washington (plus 10½) at Phil-



New York Giants rookie QB Eli Manning will make his first start behind an offensive line that has allowed 24 sacks in the past four games.

adelphia: The Redskins' defense can control the Eagles to a point. But that Washington offense ... **EAGLES, 23-16**

Dallas (plus 8) at Baltimore: The way the Cowboys are playing

defense, even the plodding Ravens' offense can score. ... **RAVENS, 24-13**

Green Bay (minus 3) at Houston: Another offensive challenge for the Texans, who have allowed

80 points in their last two games.

... **PACKERS, 34-27**
Denver (minus 4) at New Orleans: Who knows with the Saints, but ... **BRONCOS, 31-20**

San Diego (minus 4) at Oakland: There's no reason for a San Diego slide here. ... **CHARGERS, 37-27**

Tennessee (off) at Jacksonville: David Garrard will be a big-time QB some day. ... **JAGUARS, 20-3**

New York Jets (pick 'em) at Cleveland: No trick plays, Herman ... **JETS, 22-20**

Detroit (plus 7½) at Minnesota: The Vikings' losing streak ends here. ... **VIKINGS, 27-20**

St. Louis (minus 1) at Buffalo: Remember that the Rams are the only team to lose to Miami. ... **BILLS, 24-20**

Miami (plus 10) at Seattle: The Seahawks might be as unpredictable as the Rams. But they won't lose to the Dolphins. ... **SEA-HAWKS, 24-13**

San Francisco (plus 8) at Tampa Bay: The 49ers are fighting for the 30-1 draft pick. ... **BUCS, 27-10**

Arizona (off) at Carolina: "Off" is for Jake Delhomme. "Coach of the Year" is for Dennis Green if the Rams make playoffs. ... **CARDINALS, 20-17**

Last week: 4-10 (spread), 8-6 (straight up).

Season: 71-71-2 (spread), 92-52 (straight up).

Finally, Falcons' Vick takes his skills to N.Y. stage

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. — So far, Michael Vick is 0-for-2 when it comes to the Big Apple. First, a sprained shoulder.

Then, a broken leg. For two years running, the NFL's most exciting player hasn't been on the field when the Atlanta Falcons traveled to New York to take on the Giants.

On Sunday, Vick will finally bring his one-of-a-kind skills to the biggest stage in sports. If he can make it there, he can make it ... well, he's already made it just about everywhere else.

"Mike is a great performer. Every week, he wants to shine," teammate Cory Hall said Wednesday. "I'm pretty sure most of the world has seen highlights of No. 7. But this right here will put a bigger spotlight on his abilities."

Sure, there's nothing like having a big game in New York (or, in the case of Giants Stadium,

right across the river) to boost a player's image and marketing power.

Not that Vick needs much help in those areas. Even without a minute in New York, he's already got a lucrative shoe contract, his face on a video game and plenty of commercial endorsements.

"I think he looks forward to shining wherever he plays," linebacker Keith Brooking said. While stressing that he looks at this game the same as all others, Vick had to admit there's a small part of him that wants to shine a little brighter in New York.

"Oh yeah, I'm very excited," he said. "This is my first time getting a start there. The last two years, I was hurt. Hopefully, we can do the same thing we did the last two



Injuries have kept Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick (7) out of the last two meetings with the New York Giants.

Dunn's 178 yards rushing and four turnovers by New York. Kittner completed just nine of 23 passes for 65 yards, but it was good enough to snap a seven-game losing streak.

Barring an unforeseen injury in the last couple of practices, Vick will finally make his Broadway debut as the leader of a first-place team. The Falcons (7-2) have a comfortable three-game lead in the NFC South and are looking to take another major step toward the third division title in franchise history.

Vick knows he'll be in the spotlight but doesn't want to distract from what's really important. If he has a poor game and the Falcons still win, he'll be satisfied.

"I'm blocking all that out," he said. "Yeah, it's the Big Apple and it's going to be a big-time show. But we're there to win a football game."

Vick seems more comfortable each week with the West Coast-style offense installed by the new coaching staff. Last week, he worked out of the shotgun for the first time in a 24-14 victory over Tampa Bay.

"I knew what this system could do for me and do for us as a team, as an offense," Vick said. "It was all about getting a handle on the offense and just being able to go out there and execute all the things that we were trying to do."

"It didn't take long, and here we are, sitting in a good position right now."

And ready to make it in New York.

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Busch wins pole for season finale

Johnson's title hopes hurt by poor qualifying effort at Homestead

The Associated Press

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — Kurt Busch came to Homestead-Miami Speedway with more in mind than just winning the NASCAR Nextel Cup championship.

Racing roundup

"It was just joking in the prequalifying interview that we needed a pole to get into the Bud Shoot-out, and now here we are," Busch said after taking the top spot in qualifying Friday for the season-ending Ford 400.

His first official pole in two years qualified Busch for the made-for-TV Shootout, a race at Daytona in February for the previous season's poleholders. It also could make his job easier Sunday, when he starts the race with an 18-point lead.

Four drivers are bunched within 82 points of him in the closest championship battle in NASCAR history.

"It is a tremendous plus for us to be in this position to start up on the pole and to have the other competitors behind us," said Busch, the last of 55 drivers to make a qualifying run on the 1½-mile oval.

The pole also gives Busch the best opportunity to earn a five-point bonus for leading at least one lap in the race.

Busch needs all the edge he can



Kurt Busch is all smiles Friday as he walks back to his garage after winning the pole for Sunday's race at Homestead-Miami Speedway.

get with Jimmie Johnson, Jeff Gordon, Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Mark Martin gunning for him. A matter of two or three positions could spell success or failure in the race.

Busch's Ford turned a lap of 179.319 mph Friday, easily beating the 179.307 of Roush Racing teammate Greg Biffle for the third pole of his career.

"It was just one of those laps," Busch said. "It's really been a storybook effort so far in this championship chase."

Johnson came to Homestead — the last race in NASCAR's new 10-man, 10-lap, playoff-style championship — with considerable momentum. He has won four

of the past five races to come from far off the pace and give himself a shot at the title.

But his qualifying effort took away some of the steam he had built up. While the other contenders eventually qualified among the top 16, Johnson went out early and had a disastrous lap of 175.029.

As driver after driver went around the track, Johnson watched his starting position drop lower and lower until it reached 39th in a field of 43. It's the worst qualifying effort of his three-year Cup career.

Johnson didn't want around to see the final result. His team put a cover on his car and he hurried

out of the garage.

"The car was really, really loose," was the only thing he said before walking quickly to his team's hauler.

Four-time series champion Gordon, three points behind Hendrick Motorsports teammate Johnson and 21 shy of Busch, will start fifth Sunday. Earnhardt, fourth in the standings and 72 points out, will start 16th. Martin, 82 points behind teammate Busch, locked up the 11th spot.

Hamilton takes truck title; Kahne wins again

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — It was a big day for Dodge at Homestead-Miami Speedway, with Bobby Hamilton wrapping up the NASCAR truck series championship Friday and Kasey Kahne driving to his second straight victory.

"This is huge," Hamilton said as he celebrated with his crew and family. "I really wanted to win it for Dodge because they've done so much for us."

At 47, owner-driver Hamilton became the oldest champion of the Craftsman series and gave Dodge its first NASCAR title since Richard Petty won the stock car championship in 1975. Kahne, the top rookie in the Nextel Cup series, became the first driver to win his first two starts in the truck series, adding this victory in a Jim Smith-owned Ram to the one last Saturday at Darlington.

Woods up by 10 in Japan

The Associated Press

MIYAZAKI, Japan — Tiger Woods shot a 5-under 65 Saturday to open up a comfortable 10-stroke lead in the Dunlop Phoenix.

Woods, who went into the third round up by three, birdied two of the first three holes and then added three more at the Phoenix Country Club to close in on his first title since February and first win in Japan. He has a 54-hole total of 13-under 197.

"The goal today was to increase the lead if I could," Woods said. "Christian (Pena) got off to a great start and birdied two of the first three holes. I thought it was important to answer him and I did."

Naomichi Ozaki, Ryken Kawagishi and Sweden's Daniel Chopra are tied in second place at 3-under 207. The \$1.8 million tournament is the richest on the Japan tour.

Woods, winner of eight major titles, lost his No. 1 ranking to Vijay Singh 18 months ago. His lone victory this year was at the Match Play Championship. The last time he won a stroke-play tournament was in October 2003.

Sorenstam maintains lead
WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Annika Sorenstam kept pace with a steady charge from Marie Webb, then pulled away with back-to-back birdies late in the second round for a 4-under 68 that set the 36-hole record in the season-ending ADT Championship.

Sorenstam was at 10-under 134, three shots ahead of Webb, Laura Diaz and Cristie Kerr.

Webb, a two-time winner at the tournament, looked particularly sharp in her round of 69. Diaz had a 68 and will play in the final group Saturday with Sorenstam.

Spanish surge into lead at home in world Cup
SEVILLE, Spain — Spain took the lead in Saturday's third round of the World Team Cup with Sergio Garcia and Miguel Angel Jimenez combining for an 11-under 61 to pull one shot ahead of England.

Playing before an enthusiastic home crowd, the pair on the palm-lined Real Club de Golf de Sevilla, Garcia put Spain into the lead on the 16th with a 5-foot eagle putt — his second eagle of the round. Spain finished 24-under par for three rounds.

The English pair of Luke Donald and Paul Casey, who began the round with a five-stroke lead over second-place Austria, faded to a 68 in the day's fourth (better ball) format.

Source: Yankees offer Martinez \$5M deal

From wire reports

NEW YORK — George Steinbrenner can't wait until the games start to exact his revenge against the Boston Red Sox.

Making a swift and bold decision Friday, the New York Yankees' principal owner presented a four-year, \$5 million offer to Pedro Martinez, according to a major league source.

Talks have intensified between the sides to the point where Martinez must now seriously consider joining the club he called "my daddy" after a frustrating September defeat.

In one stunning move, Steinbrenner has changed the winter landscape — forcing the Red Sox to make a large counteroffer and possibly prompting the Arizona Diamondbacks to speed up the process of trading Randy Johnson.

Even if the Yanks sign Martinez, Steinbrenner is still determined to add Johnson in a trade involving Javier Lirio.

Less than a month after the Yankees' stunning AL Championship Series loss to Boston, the anger inside Steinbrenner — who had been virtually silent in public since the Yankees' final out — has just begun to bubble.

The Boss' shocking move on Pedro was made independently



Briefs

of the Yankees' Bronx-based front office, with General Manager Brian Cashman and top adviser Gene Michael said to strongly oppose such a deal.

Cashman did not return phone calls Friday, and Martinez's agents did not return a message.

Sources: Expos to be renamed Nationals

WASHINGTON — The Montreal Expos are about to get their new name: the Washington Nationals.

A city official and a baseball official, both speaking on condition of anonymity, said Friday that the team will reveal its new name, cap and red-white-and-blue color scheme during a news conference Monday.

The search for a new name began Sept. 29, when Major League Baseball announced it planned to relocate the team for the 2005 season. Initially, the plan was to wait until the team was used to select the name, but the sale process is expected to take months — and the team needs to start marketing itself in its new home city immediately.

The top contenders were Na-

tional, Senators and Grays, with Senators the sentimental favorite. The original American League Senators played in the nation's capital from 1901-60 before moving to Minnesota to become the Twins. The expansion Senators called Washington home from 1961-71 before moving to Texas to become the Rangers. Senators was also the preference of Commissioner Bud Selig, even though the Rangers still hold the rights to the name.

But Mayor Anthony Williams objected, saying the name isn't appropriate, given the District of Columbia's lack of representation in the U.S. Senate.

"We don't have senators here," the mayor said in September. "I give you two senators, and I'll be happy to call them the Senators."

Angels trade Guillen to Expos
WASHINGTON — After a temper tantrum that led to an eight-game suspension and a course in anger management, Jose Guillen needed a change of scenery.

He'll find it in the nation's capital. The Anaheim Angels traded Guillen to the Washington-bound Expos — the soon-to-be Nationals — on Friday for outfielder Juan Rivera and prospect Maicer Izturis.

"It was the best thing that could happen, taking into consideration the way things ended last season between us," Guillen told The Associated Press from his home in Miami. "I'm excited to be a part of the Expos and a part of history, now that we'll play in the U.S. capital."

Guillen was suspended for the final eight games of the regular season and dropped out of Anaheim's playoff roster after he threw a tantrum in the dugout and clubhouse when he was removed for a pinch-runner on Sept. 25. In a grievance settlement, he agreed to allow the Angels to withhold two days' pay.

Angels manager Mike Scioscia said, "Jose would have been welcomed back."

White Sox, RHP Garland avoid arbitration

CHICAGO — The Chicago White Sox avoided arbitration with right-hander Jon Garland on Friday, agreeing to a \$3.4 million, one-year contract.

Garland, who got a \$1.1 million raise, was 12-11 with a 4.89 ERA last season, the first winning record in his career. He had a career-high 113 strikeouts, pitched 200 innings for the first time and won 12 games for the third straight season.

Garland is 46-51 with a 4.68 ERA in four-plus seasons with the White Sox.

Brawl: Fight prompts police investigation

BRAWL, FROM BACK PAGE

One of the half-dozen people treated for injuries at The Palace was taken to a hospital by ambulance and another sought treatment, police said.

"At this time, we don't have any indication of major injuries, Mynsberge said.

Detroit's Larry Brown, who started coaching in 1972 after his playing career ended, said it was the ugliest thing he had seen as a coach or player.

Joe Dumars, the Pistons' president of basketball operations, added: "There's no place in the game for what went on with this incident. It was just an ugly scene."

After several minutes of players fighting with fans in the stands, a chair, beer, ice and popcorn were thrown at the Pacers as they made their way to the locker room.

The melee started when Detroit's Ben Wallace went in for a layup and was fouled hard by Artest from behind, and escalated when Artest stormed into the

stands after being hit by a full cup. After being fouled, Wallace wheeled around and pushed Artest in the face.

The benches emptied and punches were thrown.

As the players continued showing each other near center court and coaches tried to restore order, Artest sprawled out on his back on the scorer's table, looking relaxed.

Just when it appeared tempers died down, Artest was struck by a cup thrown from the stands and jumped up and charged into the stands, throwing punches as he climbed over seats.

"He was on top of me, pummeling me," fan Mike Ryan of Clarkston said. "He asked me, 'Did you do it?' I said, 'No, man. No!'"

Jackson joined Artest in the melee and threw punches at fans, who punched back at the players.

Security personnel and ushers tried to break it up. Former Pistons player Rick Mahorn, who was seated courtside as a Detroit radio analyst, tried to stop the

brawl in the stands. Detroit's Rasheed Wallace and Indiana's David Harrison were also in or near the stands trying to break up the fights.

Later, a man in a Pistons jersey approached Artest on the court, shouting at him. Artest punched him in the face, knocking him to the floor. Teammate Jermaine O'Neal stepped in and punched another man who joined the scrum.

Players from both teams left the arena without comment.

Quentin Richardson of the Phoenix Suns watched the brawl on TV.

"I have never seen a fight like that in a game since I was in high school," he said. "Man, there are going to be some lawsuits. You don't think some of those fans aren't going to want some NBA money?"

Police prevented reporters from crossing the loading dock to get to Indiana's locker room or the area where the Pacers' bus was located.

"I'm just embarrassed for our league and disappointed for our young people to see that," Brown said.

Blame: Nothing can justify leaving court to attack fans

BLAME, FROM BACK PAGE

There were no arrests Friday night, but that doesn't mean there won't be arrests down the road.

This one will not end for a long time.

How did American sports come to this? How did a fairly routine NBA altercation turn into the kind of riot we more often associate with minor league hockey?

And where was the security at The Palace of Auburn Hills when fans tossed beer and cups at Artest? Where were they when Pacers players, led by Artest and Jackson, charged into the stands and engaged those clowns in a barroom brawl? Where were they when Pacers players and coaches were coming off the court — the game was smartly canceled after the riot — and fans threw even more cups and chairs on their heads, endangering livelihoods, endangering lives?

Before NBA Commissioner David Stern does anything else, he has to hold the Pistons' organization accountable for the way things got out of hand.

The foul that started it all was nothing flagrant, nothing terribly violent. Shoot, by Artest's standards, the late foul on Ben Wallace was a love tap.

The Pistons center was guilty of a terrible overreaction, and he should get a serious fine and suspension. That said, he can't be blamed for what happened next.

As both teams stood around, posturing and taunting the way NBA players are wont to do, Artest reclined in an almost comical manner on that same table. On this occasion, he was showing great restraint, resisting any temptation to retaliate against Wallace or join the fray nearby.

He couldn't hold back, though, when debris and beer started flying into his face.

What Artest did next, going into the stands to confront the fan, was human nature. At the same time, though, his actions cannot be condoned in any form or fashion. It doesn't matter how he was provoked. While we might understand what inspired Artest, we can't condone it, and the league won't let it pass.

It may seem unfair that this was started by Wallace and escalated by fans, yet the Pacers will be hit the hardest by the NBA. But how can you argue? They went into the stands. End of story.

The fear now is what happens Dec. 25, Christmas Day, when these two teams meet again, this time in Indianapolis. Maybe, by that time, things will have settled down between the two organizations, but fans, even the highly civilized ones who fill up the field-house, have very long memories.

This can't happen again. Although, we know, somewhere, somehow, it will.

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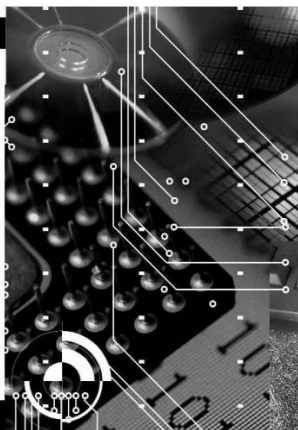
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Purdue's Stubblefield breaks NCAA receptions mark

The Associated Press

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Purdue's Taylor Stubblefield broke the NCAA record for career receptions during the first quarter Saturday against Indiana.

Stubblefield entered the game needing six receptions to pass Louisville's Arnold Jackson for the career record. Jackson caught 300 passes from 1997-00.

It didn't take Stubblefield long to break the mark. He caught two passes on each of the Boiler-



ers' first three drives, including a 23-yard touchdown reception for his 13th of the season.

The record-breaker came on a juggling 6-yard catch with 1:43 left in the first quarter. That gave Stubblefield 301 receptions since he started playing for the Boiler-makers in 2001.

His 13th TD reception also tied

Vinny Sutherland and John Standafor for Purdue's season record.

BALCO chief alleges feds fabricating steroid case

SAN FRANCISCO — The founder of the company at the center of an investigation into illegal steroids alleges the government fabricated statements suggesting he provided the substance to top athletes, including Barry Bonds, according to federal court

documents filed Friday.

Victor Conte, head of Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative, disputed claims by an IRS agent that he had acknowledged providing steroids to the athletes.

"I very clearly told all four of the law enforcement officers present that I would not cooperate with them in any way, regarding any of the physicians, coaches or athletes involved with BALCO Laboratories," Conte said in the documents, which dispute state-

ments the government said Conte made when agents raided his Burlingame nutritional supplement business in September 2003.

In court papers last month, IRS agent Jeff Novak said, "Conte openly acknowledged giving testosterone-base cream, itself a steroid, to numerous professional athletes and specifically identified the names of the specific athletes to whom he had given drugs."

An IRS memo about that conversation listed baseball players Bonds, Jason Giambi and Gary Sheffield, in addition to track standouts Marion Jones, Tim Montgomery and others.

Those athletes and others testified before a federal grand jury that eventually led to the indictment of Conte, Bonds, trainer Greg Anderson, BALCO vice president James Valente and track coach Remi Korchemmy.

Charges include distributing steroids, including the previously undetectable THG, possession of human growth hormone, misbranding drugs with intent to defraud and money laundering. All have pleaded not guilty.

A hearing is set for Dec. 1 in San Francisco in which the four men are seeking to have the charges dismissed. They allege they were subjected to illegal searches and coerced by federal investigators.

No trial date has been set. Prosecutors did not return calls seeking comment.

Nets guard Kidd hopes to practice next month

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Jason Kidd's recovery from surgery on his left knee is on schedule and the All-Star point guard hopes to practice next month with the struggling New Jersey Nets.

Kidd was re-evaluated Friday by the team's medical staff and Dr. David Altcheck, who performed surgery on the knee on July 1.

Kidd will continue his rehabilitation and light contact work, with the goal of returning to practice in December, the team said. There is no timetable for his return to the active roster.

Pacers' Bender out six weeks with knee injury

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Indiana Pacers forward Jonathan Bender is expected to be out six weeks with an injured left knee.

He played 11 minutes in Wednesday night's victory over the Atlanta Hawks, the first time he'd been on the court since the season opener against Cleveland.

The 7-foot, 235-pound forward has averaged 5.7 points and 2.2 rebounds during his first five seasons.

Chivas makes Torres first choice in MLS expansion draft

NEW YORK — Los Angeles-based CD Chivas USA made Los Angeles Galaxy forward Arturo Torres the first player chosen Friday in the Major League Soccer Expansion Draft.

Real Salt Lake, the other expansion club that will begin play next year, took Jamaican midfielder Andy Williams from the Chicago Fire with the first of its 10 choices, making the Utah club his sixth team since joining the MLS in 1998.

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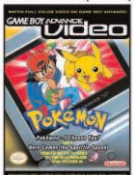
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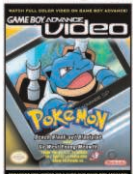
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SPORTS



Yankees reportedly offer
Pedro Martinez four-year,
\$50 million deal, Page 28

Throwdown in Motown

Pacers brawl with fans in Detroit stands; 4 suspended indefinitely

BY LARRY LAGE
The Associated Press

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Players and fans exchanged punches in the stands near the end of a Pacers-Pistons game in one of the worst brawls in NBA history. The mayhem left several people injured and prompted a police investigation.

Indiana's Ron Artest and Stephen Jackson charged into the crowd and fought with fans in the final minute of Friday night's game, forcing an early end to the Pacers' 97-82 victory.

"I felt like I was fighting for my life out there," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said. "I'm sorry the game had to end this way."

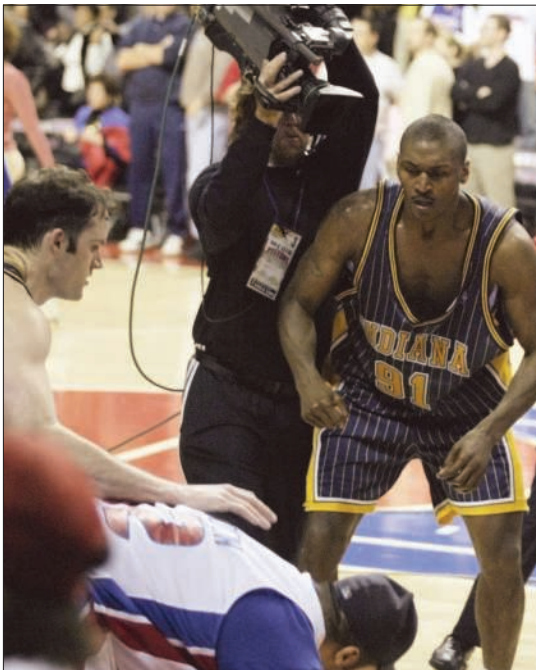
Officials stopped the game with 45.9 seconds remaining after pushing and shoving between the teams spilled into the stands once fans started throwing things at the players near the scorer's table.

The NBA suspended the Pacers' Artest, Jackson and Jermaine O'Neal, and Ben Wallace of Detroit on Saturday.

The suspensions were indefinite, and the league was still investigating the melee, which Commissioner David Stern called "shocking, repulsive and inexcusable — a humiliation for everyone associated with the NBA."

The league issued a statement saying it was reviewing rules and security procedures "so that fans can continue to attend our games unthreatened by events such as the ones that occurred last night."

About three hours following the startling finish, Auburn Hills police walked out of a television



DETROIT FREE PRESS/AP/T

Indiana Pacers' Ron Artest is shown after knocking down a fan with a punch after the fan came on the court during an altercation in the last minute of their game with the Pistons in Auburn Hills, Mich., on Friday.

trailer with videotapes gathered from media outlets. Officers interviewed witnesses at the arena in suburban Detroit and planned to talk to the players involved.

"We'll put it all together, take it to the Oakland County Prosecutors Office and have them review it and they'll decide if there are any charges," Auburn Hills Deputy

Chief Jim Mynsberge said.

"I hope we can do it before Thanksgiving."

SEE BRAWL ON PAGE 29

Plenty of fault by everyone in violent ending

BY BOB KRAVITZ
The Indianapolis Star

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — It was, by any measure, one of the most disgraceful moments in the history of the NBA, and one of the worst, and most frightening, in the history of professional sports in America.

The beer will be mopped up and the debris will be swept away soon enough, but the echoes from Friday night's horrible scene at the end of the Pacers-Pistons game will sound for many weeks to come.

The question now is this: How will the NBA clean up this terrible mess? How does the league find fairness in a situation where nearly everybody acted wrongly and, in some cases, criminally? Even without further review, we know these things will happen:

■ Detroit's Ben Wallace, whose overreaction to Ron Artest's foul started the whole mess, will get suspended, probably for five games.

■ Artest, who showed admirable restraint during the early moments of the fiasco, will be hit the hardest for retaliating and running into the stands to confront the fans. Even after he escaped the stands, he cold-cocked a Pistons fan who had come onto the floor. We're talking 10 games, minimum.

■ Stephen Jackson, who came to Artest's aid and was clearly the most supportive and aggressive of Artest's teammates, also will be looking at five to 10 games.

And there will be more.

A lot more. From the Pacers and Pistons, from the NBA and from lawyers representing some of the fans who were caught up in the madness.

SEE BLAME ON PAGE 29

Commentary

Santa Clara spoils No. 4 Tar Heels' opener in Pete Newell Challenge

Page 26



Nextel Cup leader Busch gets early edge in finale by taking pole

Page 28



Giants' Manning faces first test against stingy Falcons defense

Page 27